



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 5 May 2023



FUN FACTS ABOUT MAY

1. **THE MONTH OF MAY IS NAMED AFTER THE GREEK GODDESS MAIA.** Maia was the goddess of fertility and growth and was often represented with a blossoming flower. May was originally the third month but was later moved to the fifth position by the Romans
2. **MAIA (MAY) WAS ONE OF THE PLEIADES, SEVEN SISTERS WHO WERE SAID TO BE VERY BEAUTIFUL.** The Pleiades were a group of seven beautiful sisters who were said to be among the most beautiful creatures in the sky. Maia was one of them.
3. **DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THE SPRING: FUN FACTS ABOUT MAY, THE MONTH WHEN SPRING BLOOMS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.** The weather becomes warmer and the days start getting longer. May is a time of new beginnings when nature comes back to life after the long winter months.
4. **IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, MAY IS THE START OF AUTUMN.** The Southern Hemisphere experiences autumn differently than the Northern Hemisphere. While the Northern Hemisphere is enjoying springtime, the Southern Hemisphere is entering fall. In May, the leaves begin to change color and the temperatures start to cool down.
5. **CINCO DE MAYO IS A MEXICAN HOLIDAY THAT CELEBRATES THE COUNTRY'S VICTORY OVER FRANCE.**

Continued on page 7



Chris Ames,
President

Dear ACTC Member,

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACTC

The Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club (CTCI Chapter 35) was started by Jack Jordan, Marlow Keith, Bill Ritter, James Sappala, Mike Smith, Bud Snodgrass, and Howard Welcher in 1970. Then on November 30, 1971, ARTICLES of INCORPORATION listing W. P. Ritter, Jr, H. H. Snodgrass, Andrew Williams, and Sharon Wussow as incorporators was signed by William R. Johnson, Secretary of the ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION.

I bring this to our attention to suggest that we should mark November 30th as ACTC's Founder's Day.

Chris



ACTC MEETING

April 15, 2023 – Officer's Picnic
 President *Chris Ames* was not present, so Bob Michele called the meeting to order.
 Hospitality: *Yvonne Wagner* introduced new members, *Gerry and Marlyn Homewood & Walt and Lynne Bonneau*. Sang "Happy Birthday" to the people born in April.
 Ways and Means: *Ken Falkenberry* - No Report
 Secretary: *Yvonne Wagner* - No Report.
 Treasurer: *Chuck Thompson* reported the balance in the checking and saving account. All our books balance.
 Ex-Officio: *Danny Kim* - No Report
 CTCI: *Chuck Thompson* - No Report
 Web Master: *Russ Hanson* mentioned again about the membership page for members only, for the new members, at AZclassicthunderbirds.org. Please contact *Russ Hanson* for the password for the access to roster, there is a contact page on there so if you need a question answered it will be directed to *Russ* and he will get back to you.
 Public Relations: *Don Henderson* - No Report
 Membership: *Judy Thompson* reported we currently have 78 Households, 142 members. 10-55's, 20-56's, and 43-57's. Retro birds, 1-2002, 1-2003, 2-2004, and 3-2005. Rosters will be on the website and if you have a correction, *Judy* will correct it on the website.
 Historian: *Duane Foster* not present.
 Newsletter Editor: *Mike Wood* was not present.
 Vice President: *Gregg Thurston* said no new information. Check your newsletter for more activities.
 Member at Large: *Bob Michele* asked how the food was and gave an applause to the staff at Pera Park. *Bob* told a joke. The next meeting, May will be Saturday, May 20th (not the 13th because of a conflict) at Detroit Coney Grill... - April 29th day at the Pavilions, 20 reserved spots, but before that we will go to Stillman Railroad Park meet there at 10am.
 Inspector General: *Tom Harris* reported that there were 19 T-Birds. The prize winner was *Doug Shearer*.
 Old Business: None.
 New Business: None
 Split the pot: \$100 - winner *Doug Shearer*
 Meeting adjourned
 Respectfully submitted by *Yvonne Wagner*

2023 CALENDAR OF ACTC EVENTS

Saturday April 29th McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Rd (S/E corner of Indian Bend Rd), Scottsdale
Members arrive 10:00 am ish
 There is a Railroad Museum and four very large model railroads along with other activities. No charge except for the train ride Through the Park.

We will leave around 12:00 noon and head to the Scottsdale Pavilions (2 miles east) for our Day At The Pavilions outing. I have reserved about 20 spaces to display your T-Birds and other classic cars by ACTC Members. For those who have never attended the cruise-in at the Pavilions, there usually are about 150-250 classic cars on display. There are restaurants and shopping on site. This will probably be one of the last times until Fall of this year that the weather will be cool enough to enjoy driving your classic. Call Bob Michele if you plan to attend either event.

Saturday Meeting: May, 20th Luncheon at Detroit Coney Grille
6953 N. Hayden Rd, Scottsdale
S/E corner of Hayden Rd./Indian Bend Rd
Members arrive 11:30 am—12:00 Noon
Menu: One Double Hamburger or two Hot Dogs. Each with fries and a soft drink.

Any questions contact Bob Michele

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative and subject to change. Please check the calendar each month for updates.



May Anniversaries 2023

<u>Bill & Robyn Dodd</u>	<u>5/6</u>
<u>Ken & Judy Goldstein</u>	<u>5/6</u>
<u>Bob & Donna Sioles</u>	<u>5/14</u>
<u>Jack & Barbra Cooley</u>	<u>5/15</u>
<u>Gregg & Linda Thurston</u>	<u>5/20</u>
<u>Doug & Ellen Shearer</u>	<u>5/22</u>
<u>Mike & Toni Doles</u>	<u>5/28</u>
<u>Frank & Joan Garrett</u>	<u>5/30</u>
<u>Clarke & Wilma Hamm</u>	<u>5/31</u>

May Birthdays

Richard Stoneberger	5/1
Jon Braemer	5/3
Marilyn Miller	5/3
Jody Pokorski	5/13
Bob Sioles	5/23
Angie Fenlon	5/24
Carter Rodgers	5/25
Justine Eaton	5/26
Nikki Musselmann	5/26
Susan Draughn	5/27
Russ Hanson	5/27
Austin Eaton	5/31
Danny Kim	5/31



CLASSIC CLASSIFIEDS


55-56-57 Thunderbird parts, call Ken Falkenberry for your needs, New or used parts SAVE \$ 480-861-3742 or email your needs kenfalk39@cox.net

**1955 T-Bird Retro-Mod
White/tan interior (extra roomy) both tops, Loaded with options.
Mike Wood 602-568-8140 or
mwoodcars@yahoo.com \$82,000.00**

**1951 Chopped top Ford 2 door, 5.0 Mustang motor with AODE overdrive trans new ECM motor runs great, 4 wheel disc brakes, Appleton spot lights, large bubble skirts, Mustang seat, split in back 20 gal gas tank with new sender. Custom dash with Dakota gauges, electric wipers
It's in process so big savings can be had. \$29,000 Mike Wood 602-568-8140**

For sale 1957 T-Bird, less than 4000 miles on new engine. Also over the last three years we have installed Electronic ignition, back electric fuel pump, Edelbrock four barrel carb, gas tank, tie rods, wires, hoses, battery, radiator, six blade fan, padded dash and after market sound system. Fresh paint original color (Colonial white), new wide white wall tires, excellent interior, port hole hard top and ton

**Fuel injection system complete ready to instless fuel pump. Upgrade your TBird and rid yourself of unwanted vapor locks, hard starts, etc. \$750.00. Satisfaction Guaranteed or money back!
Jim Rodgers
602 300 5792**

**For ale 4 Coker used wide white walls
tire with rims
4 ply 7.50x14 make offer
Doug 515-369-4660**


GETTING TO KNOW YOU

ACTC is happy to introduce new associate members Tom and Yvonne Wagner. Tom and Yvonne were introduced to our club by members Bob and Cindy LaBine. After attending the Prescott Romance Weekend last fall and coming to a breakfast meeting earlier this year, they decided to join us officially.

Although they do not currently own a classic Thunderbird, Tom said he would certainly like to have one. I did hear a rumor from a reliable source that Tom also has aspirations of owning a '50's Chevy Bel Air like he had as a teenager. *(Chevy people continue to infiltrate our club, don't they!)*

Tom is currently employed by Unicoa, an industrial tool and supply company, and Yvonne works for Enterprising Solutions, an employee leasing firm. They have two sons, Mike, age 23, and Ryan, age 21, who are both attending college.

When not working, they can both be found playing in softball leagues, Yvonne four nights per week and Tom one night per week.

When not hitting or catching softballs, we hope you'll continue to participate in our activities, Tom and Yvonne. We look forward to

.... getting to know you!



.... Shirley Pettingell

SO YOU WANT AN ARIZONA COLLECTOR CAR PLATE



For years the school children in Arizona have been taught the Five C's: Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate. All five are strong economic forces in Arizona. We have the Copper mines like you have probably seen in Clifton and Morenci. And you have seen Cattle grazing in the mountains in the desert. Yes, the desert. They actually eat prickly pear cactus. Cotton grown in vast fields around the desert areas. We have large citrus groves like you see in Yuma and still some places in Mesa. And, of course, we have the great climate which attracts all of the winter snowbirds. So, when it came time to design special license plate for collector cars, it should not be a surprise that the legislature required that those plates be made with not just any copper, but only Arizona Copper! And the legislature created three specific copper plates for three different types of vehicles: ARS 28–2482, horseless carriage plates. The plates must be manufactured from Arizona Copper. “Horseless carriage“ means a motor vehicle manufactured in or before 1915. Does that include a buckboard or the Budweiser wagon? No. Those are Horse Carriages and don't use those plates. ARS 28–2483, “classic car” plates. The plates must be manufactured from Arizona Copper. “Classic car” means a car included in the classic car club of America list. That list which is rather lengthy, includes specific cars between 1915 and 1948. The only Ford company manufactured vehicles on the list are specific Lincolns between 1920 to 1942 and all Lincoln Continentals 1939 to 1948. Therefore, Ford Thunderbirds do not qualify for classic car plates even though you might be member of the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club. ARS 28–2484, “historic vehicle” plates. The plates must be manufactured from Arizona Copper. “Historic vehicle” bearing a model year date of original manufacture that is 25 years old or older. Therefore, all 55 to 57 Thunderbirds qualify for historic vehicle plates even though they are truly classics in all sense of the word. And yes, by this definition a 1998 Volkswagen can have the same type of copper plates as your Thunderbird even though most folks would say "really, those Volkswagens have no class". And No, retro-birds can't have a Historic Vehicle plate because they simply aren't old enough. What conclusion can we draw from this? When it comes to the Classic Car copper license plates, our 55-57 Thunderbirds, as Rodney Dangerfield would say, "Get no respect ."

Submitted by Gregg Thurston

Kars for Kids Show in Serra Vista, AZ 4/12023

Barnett Towing is a major sponsor of this Annual Car show, they brought their original 1952 Studebaker Tow Truck that Troy Barnett's dad used to start the business.

Jo Cannold with her show winning Scooby-Doo 59 Chev sedan delivery, kids favorite, Jo also just received a show Polis 3 wheeler. Her husband Stu traded one of his police cars for it. The rest if Stu's police cars, motorcycle and his Gold Medallion "E" Thunderbird and A Very Special 911 Ambulance are in the car museum in Laughlin, Nevada.



Continues from page 1

Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican holiday that commemorates the country's victory over French army during the Battle of Puebla. The holiday is celebrated with parades, festivals, and traditional food and drink.

6. **MEMORIAL DAY, OR DECORATION DAY, IS A US HOLIDAY OSERVED ON THE LAST DAY IN MAY.** Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States, observed on last Monday in May. Fun facts about May include that it's not only a time for honoring those who died while serving in the Armed Forces, but also a month for celebrating National BBQ Month.
7. **MOTHER'S DAY IS CELEBRATING IN SEVERAL COUNTIES ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY.** Mothers Day is special day to honor mothers and show them how much they're loved and appreciated. Families often get together for a special meal or brunch, and exchange gifts to show their affection. It's a day to celebrate the gift of motherhood and cherish the bond between mother and child.

MEMORIES



This Years Auction Results

This year's Barrett-Jackson Auction sold 13 "55-"56 and "57 Thunderbirds including Lot #717,1 a custom built 1957 equipped with a new custom-built full-length steel frame and powered by a 302ci V8 engine driven though an automatic transmission. It has power rack & pinion steering, power disc brakes, air conditioning and heating system. This vehicle has an all-new leather interior with padding, a full instrument panel, tinted windshield and power windows, as well as a removable hardtop with port holes (no soft top). Other highlights include an AM/FM stereo package, custom wheels, tires, and cruise control. ****TILED AS 1957 FORD SPECON****

Looking at the most recent 11 years I have data for, the average Thunderbird at Barrett-Jackson is just under 20. So 12 authentic '55, '56, and '57 Thunderbirds are only 60% of the 11 year average. It maybe time to refresh the Thunderbirds at Auction analysis we last refreshed in 2017. Let me know your thoughts.

Chris Ames

Thunderbirds sold at auction in 2018, 2019, &2020				Avg Price	Highest price
Thunderbirds auctioned in 2018:	22	Average T-bird sales Price in 2018:		\$48,750	\$167,000
Thunderbirds auctioned in 2019:	16	Average T-bird sales Price in 2019:		\$43,500	\$132,000
Thunderbirds auctioned in 2020:	28	Average T-bird sales Price in 2020:		\$47,018	\$50,000

Thunderbirds Sold at Auction in 2023				
Lot	Sale Price	Notes	% 2020	avg price
206	\$81,400			173.13%
386.1	\$26,400			56.15%
433.1	\$44,000			93.58%
699	\$44,000			93.58%
717.1	\$66,000			140.37%
827	\$79,200			168.45%
845	\$44,000			93.58%
926	\$33,000			70.19%
1070	\$495,000	Minter		1052.79%
1117	\$99,000			210.56%
1157	\$53,900			114.64%
1326	\$170,500	Resto-mod		362.63%
1616	\$60,500			128.67%
Average:	\$99,762			

Premium price provokers

Submitted by Don Rebtoy from OLD CARS Magazine 2/1/23
Photos and story by John Gunnell

While doing some collector-vehicle pricing research based on actual prices, we noticed several descriptive words or phrase that seller (often collector-car dealers or brokers) use to provoke successful sales and higher process. Soome of these descriptions are worthy of discussion, because various people interpret them in different ways.

“LOW MILES” We repeatedly came across instances where prices for a certain year, make and model of car with a low odometer reading were up to double the price of identical car with higher mileage. The cosmetic condition of the cars was virtually identical, and even the description of the mechanical condition was the same. In some cases, the low mileage and higher-mileage were even the same colors and had the same drivetrain, the same options and the same interior package.

We understand that low miles may mean bragging rights at a club meeting or car show, but truth is that a car can be a lemon when it’s brand new. We once picked up a new company car—a 1969 Mercury Montego six-cylinder sedan at a dealership in Brooklyn and drove it home to Staten Island. When we shut it off, ut wouldn’t refire. The starter had already gone bad. (To make matters worse, the Ford service techs were on strike.)

Three years later, the company upgraded to two-door cars and allowed us to add extras if we paid half the price of the options. (I suppose well-optioned cars had a better resale value three years later.) We ordered a gold Pontiac Lemans two door hardtop with a V-8 and a white vinyl top. Again, we drove it about ten miles from the dealership to our home. We shut it off and tried to start it to no avail. The starter was good; the engine was just “new and tight” the dealer said. We drove the car for two years and it was always hard to start.

Storing a vehicle for many years may keep the odometer low, but it can cause gaskets and seals to dry out and require replacement. Meanwhile, a higher-mileage car that is regularly used has proven its reliability. As mechanical objects, both will eventually require maintenance and repairs, but how far ahead will you be with the lower-mileage example over the higher-mileage counterpart? Only time will tell.

Some restorers reset the odometer when restoring a car, then they advertise it’s a low -mileage car. It’s true that the rebuilt or new engine might have only a few miles of use, but the rest of the car, even it nicely restored, is no longer a low-mileage specimen. It might look new, but all of its metal components, from the sheet metal to the engine block, still have more miles of stress from additional road use.

In other cases, claims of low-mileage readings are based on what a previous owner told the current owner. However, years ago, odometers only had six figures (seven with the digit for the fractional miles), and many cars were well maintained that they looked good, even when the 1000,000-mile mark was passed and the odometer went back to 000001. The present owner may truly believe that the car has low-mileage when it’s actually on its way to 2000,000 miles.

Keep this article because it will continue for several months

Sanderson Ford "Ford only" car show on Saturday April 8th.

The following stalwart ACTC members attended the Sanderson For Car Show.

Bob Michele 57 Thunderbird

Jim Rodgers 34 Lincoln Cabriolet

Frank Saccente 66 Mustang

John Dalmolin 23 Mustang

Ken Lane 67 Mustang



We thought about the Club participation award but the Mustang Club edged us out with 31 present. The weather was perfect, The cars all ran well with no breakdowns.

Jim Rodger's 1934 Lincoln

WON BEST OF SHOW

Submitted by Bob Michele

Officer's Picnic Pera Park Saturday 4/15/23 By Bob Michelle

On a mild, sunny, Spring day, 55 members gathered at beautiful Pera Park in Tempe for the annual Officer's Picnic.

Among the attendees were 4 new members; Walt & Lynne Bonneau (who drove in from Yuma that morning) and Gerry & Marlyn Homewood. Both Walt and Gerry regaled the members with tales about their T-Birds.

Jack & Barbara Cooley made the trip from Casa Grande as did Steve Kovacic (driving in from Prescott and hardly ever misses a meeting), and Bret Williams & Jen Kiley who drove in from Payson. Bev Lynch, who is our sponsor at the SRP owned facility, was also in attendance.

We had our usual Ramada #4, the largest at the facility, which also has the most parking.

The Pera Park staff were very professional and accommodating. The food was delicious and plentiful.

The meeting was conducted in a very casual way. Member at Large, Bob Michele, led the festivities in the absence of President Chris Ames who had a prior commitment. On a personal note, I think he did a terrific job. His usual joke to start the meeting was hilarious.

There were 19 T-Birds driven as well as Ken Lane's beautiful '67 Mustang convertible.

Doug Shearer won the monthly gift card for his yellow '57 T-Bird and then topped that with the winning ticket of the 50/50 prize of \$100.00



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Events**Saturday: May 20th Luncheon****AT DETROIT CONEY GRILLE****Members 11:30-12 Noon****6953 N. Hayden Rd/Indian Bend Rd****“DRIVE YOUR CAR”**

Arizona Bird Chatter

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**Meetings are smoke and
cell phone free!**

