



# ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 12 December 2023



Christmas is a time of giving and sharing; it is by far my most favourite time of the year. Since I have been a child, I anxiously await December 25 because there is so much that I love about this holiday. This Christmas, I have decided to share a list of things that I enjoy the most of this merry season.

**Listening to Christmas carols.** The joy of listening to Christmas carols with a cup of cocoa is one that is matched by very few other things in life. Snuggling in a blanket with family and friends, and humming these tunes can cheer one up immensely. It encourages a feeling of closeness, and leads one to feelings of joy no matter how bad things in life may be.

**Fairy lights and pretty decorations.** New lights and fresh decorations mixed with old ones give a feeling of warmth and happiness. When these are up, everyone knows that Christmas is near, and this is enough to brighten even the most gloomiest of moods. Decorating a tree is a pleasure worth experiencing in life. This joy is compounded when you know there is a gift waiting for you under the tree. (Why can't I be just a little self-indulgent at Christmas time.)

**Buying gifts for your loved ones.** If anyone tries to convince you that 'retail therapy' does not work, they are dead wrong - well, at least at Christmas time. Shopping for friends and family in this season, is extremely exciting. What is even more exhilarating is trying to keep their presents a secret from them.

**Keeping a secret stash of holiday sweets.** Okay, it is time to come clean! Keeping a secret stash of all the traditional sweets made at home before Christmas time is one of the joys of the holiday season. Trust me, sneaking some of these while your mother maintains a fierce guard over them, is no mean feat. Maybe this is why pre-holiday treats taste much better than they do on Christmas day.

Continue on page four



### A Citizen's Prayer by Cris Ames

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessing of your divine inspiration bestowed upon our nation's founding fathers.

We thank you for the blessing of the constitution they ordained for us and the government it defines.

We ask that you bless our political leaders with the wisdom and grace to always guide our nation based upon constitutional principles.

And Father, in those cases where our leaders guide our nation away from the constitution, please bless us with the wisdom, courage, and perseverance to provide citizen guidance towards correcting their course.

Heavenly father, please bless all those in the profession of arms as they serve our country, and especially our chaplains as they serve God and country.

In your name we pray, Amen.

**No Meeting report this month,  
already published in November's  
Newsletter**



**Black Friday Special 1955 to 2005  
Looks like it has lots of info.**

**FordThunderbirdForum.com**

**T-Birders,**

**This message is from member Austin Eaton. He made a presentation today at the ACTC Meeting about a club jacket with different Ford/TBird Patches.**

**If you are interested or have questions about the jacket or patches please direct them to Austin.**

**Austin Eaton, 707-643-6304**

**austineaton6@gmail.com**



**2023-2024 CALENDAR OF ACTC EVENTS**

**December Christmas Party/Dance**  
**Date/Time: Sunday December 10th 4:00 pm—8:30 pm**

**Location: Embassy Suites Resort**  
**4415 E. Paradise Village Parkway so.**  
**Phoenix, 85032**

**Details: Cocktails/hors d' oeuvres/Italian buffet dinner 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**  
**DJ music and dancing from 6:30—8:30 pm**

**Sunday January 7th (first Sunday of the month) Rudy's BBQ 1733 N. Higley Rd, Gilbert cost \$13.00 per person**

**Saturday February 10th (second Saturday of the month) Oro Valley BBQ & Blues Classic Car Show \$45.00 registration 12155 N Oracle Rd, Oro Valley, AZ 85737 contact Bob Michele if you are interested.**

**Sunday February 11th (second Sunday of the month) American Legion Post 107 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix Cost \$16.00 per person**



**PLEASE NOTE !**

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



Michele Bob	12/1
Cook James	12/3
Bursley Richard	12/6
Delton Jim	12/6
Foster Duane	12/6
Silvernale Lynne	12/7
Prokopowicz Maria	12/8
Wagner Tom	12/16
Myers Carol	12/19
Ulsund Debi	12/19
Kidwell Nancy	12/21
Rebtoy Don	12/23
Strabala Thomas	12/29



Thompson Gary & Jamie	12/10
Hanson Margie & Russ 1	12/28

Continued from page one

Another reason to stay out late. Staying out late **during Christmas time** without any curfews is what I love about the season. Curfew-free *masti* is what Christmas is famous for. Attend all the bonfires and parties you like, mom won't shout at you during the most wonderful time of the year.

Family get-togethers. This is the time when all your favourite and not so favourite *chachas, mamas*, nephew, nieces, and cousins gather at your place for a big feast. With all the traditional dishes and sweets, the house full of festivities, and we feel like one big happy family. Yes, there is the occasional family drama, but hey, that's what Christmas is all about.

Vacation time. This is the time when you can go right up to your boss and boldly tell him about your plans for a **Christmas holiday**. You can then walk out of his office with a sense of great achievement, as you can never be refused a Christmas break!

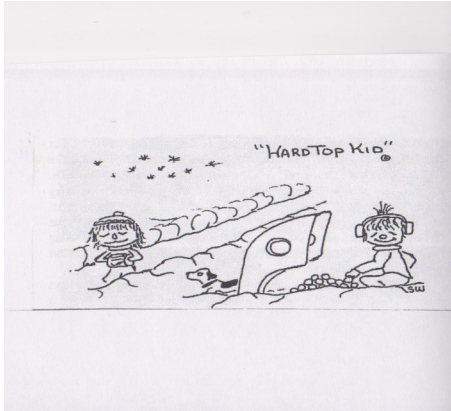
Attending the midnight prayer service. We save the best for last. Attending the midnight service in the chilly winter is the most blessed feeling in the world. Such is the sense of unison and security, that you cannot help but feel a warm glow. It is this time that truly makes one realize how thankful we should be to the Almighty for all the blessings he has showered on us.

Article by Rozario Fernandes 2011



John and Kathy are coming from New York to our luncheon, it's going to wonderful to see them.

**MEMORIES**



**Club members enjoying Polo match**



### A Thanksgiving Parade To Be Thankful For

It was an early and cool Thanksgiving morning in Fountain Hills. We had six Thunderbirds, Ken's 67 Mustang, six jeeps, two 5 ton trucks, and two Humvees which included one armored Humvee.

Depicted in one of the photographs is World War II Navy veteran, 99 year old, Howard Asher. As I spoke with Howard, I noticed that he was rather violently shaking from the cold. I took off my jacket and laid it over his chest, tucking it in around his neck. He smiled and thanked me. He still was shaking. I took my knit stocking cap and pulled it over his head and ears. He again smiled and said that was even much better.

As I looked into his eyes, I could see the joy which he had encountered years ago at Iwo Jima, when he saw from his ship the flag raising, but I could also see the sadness for many of the soldiers who departed from his ship, and did not return. War is violent, and we need to be thankful for all persons who survive the endeavor.

It was not that many years ago, especially during the Vietnam war era, when active military personnel and veterans were detested by large numbers of our population. A few of those persons still feel that way today, but fortunately, for Howard and many others, the vast majority of Americans now recognize the great sacrifice by our veterans and soldiers. They, like Howard, are finally now receiving the respect they always deserved. Unfortunately, many of the World War II vets passed away before this occurred.

As we followed the Color Guard marching down the parade route, men, women, and children waved and shouted "Thank you for your service", and "Happy Thanksgiving". Howard smiled.

I would like to thank club members Ken Lane, Wade Myers, Bob Michele, Doug Shearer, Rob Reitman, and new member Dave Mock for driving their collector convertibles on this Thanksgiving morning. It was truly an honor to drive our vehicles as the first entry in this parade transporting veterans and active military members. In fact, in one 5 ton truck, a retired veteran was the passenger while in the other truck his daughter, an active military member, was the passenger.

We are thankful for all of the drivers and veterans who made this entry in the parade possible. I guess, that's what Thanksgiving is all about.

Best wishes for a joyful, holiday season!

Gregg Thurston

## VEHICLES IN THANKSGIVING PARADE

LOVE OUR VETS!



Fellow ACTC members:

In 1971 I was assigned to Luke AFB. Sharon and our first born accompany me to Glendale and we became Arizonans. Subsequently our three daughters, second son, and first three grandchildren were born in Arizona. We were an Arizona Family and enjoyed winter visits from family and friends from colder locations climates.

But alas, in 2008 the center of gravity of our family started to migrate to North Carolina and today Sharon and I find ourselves spending more time visiting with our Grandchildren there than we spend in Arizona. When there were no candidates for the 2024 ACTC Presidency, and after discussions with Board members and a gracious offer from Jim Rogers to accept the ACTC Presidency, I have decided to resign from the Presidency and board as of January 1, 2024. Bob Michele will assume the position of Vice President that was vacated by Gregg Thurston. He will also remain as Member At Large.

Sincerely,

Chris Ames





**ACTC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (2024)**  
**DEADLINE: January 23rd 2024**

**ARIZONA CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB**  
**4055-28 North Recker Road Mesa, AZ 85215**

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MEMBER NAME\_ MEMBER BIRTHDAY \_\_

SPOUSE / OTHER (Include last name, if different) \_\_SP/SO BIRTHDAY \_

ANNIVERSARY \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_SP/SO

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_CTCI NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD(S) OWNED

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

MODERN CLASSIC (RETRO BIRDS) OWNED

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_COLOR \_

Please sign and date below, then mail with signed check to the address at the top. Thank you for your renewal to ACTC!

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**JUST A REMINDER****CHRISTMAS PARTY  
& DANCE****Sunday December 10th****4:00 pm—8:30 pm****EMBASSY SUITES RESORT****4415 E. Paradise Village Parkway So.****Cocktails/Hors d' oeuvres****Buffet Italian dinner**

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***Arizona Bird Chatter***

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**Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club  
CTCI Chapter 35  
8355 W La Caille  
Peoria, AZ 85383****Meetings are smoke and  
cell phone free!**