ARIZONA CLASSIC Thunderbird CLUB

ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 8 September 2024

September

The month that signifies the end of the Summer and the welcoming of the Autumn. This is especially welcoming to most of us here in the Arizona Southwest desert. As we see those 110 plus degree days fade away. We can all return to the many planned ACTC's activities, as the next 6 plus months represents club meetings, car shows, tours and other activities galore.

As with each months newsletter going forward, we will feature one of the many ACTC member's Thunderbirds. It would be especially cool if each month's chosen Bird was from the month in which it was manufactured. We start with this pictured 1957 Code-D, manufactured in late September of 1957 and is owned by Walt & Lynne Bonneau. The car has spent most of its life in Southern California and Las Vegas, NV. but now resides in Yuma, AZ. The car has gone through two years of moderate restoration including added safety items totaling to date, 107 various fixes to get it to as original as possible. Happy to say, the car is functioning well and now fun to drive.

Please submit to the editor by September 19th a brief history and picture if your Bird was manufactured in October. One such car will be selected and featured for the front page in the October Newsletter.

This Newsletter is the property of the ACTC Regional-5 Chapter and is provided solely to members of the ACTC and other Regional Chapters associated with the ICTC

President's Desk

"The Other Side of the Porthole"

Well in case you haven't noticed summer is in full swing. Beside the fact that we have experienced some of the hottest weather ever in the valley it has been especially noticeable in our monthly meeting attendance and the ROMEO Luncheon headcounts. Many of us, self-included have escaped to cooler parts of the country but when not in cooler climates I seem to spend the majority of my time in the pool. Fortunately, I am able to play with the Lil Birds in an A/C controlled garage but I for one am looking forward to cooler temperatures. In case you haven't viewed or participated in the CTCI forum; I encourage you to partake as it is informative, interesting and occasionally humorous. You will be surprised to learn just how much you know about these Lil Birds after viewing some of the discussions. That being said however, there are some very informative discussions regarding the Birds. You are not the only one for example to have overheating issues as it is a problem viewed by many with just as many corrective solutions out there.

If you were at the last meeting or two you heard us talk about the upcoming CTCI Board of Directors elections and our very own Austin Eaton is running for Director of Region 6. I encourage you to vote for Austin and you can rest assured ACTC will be well represented should Austin be elected so look for your ballot in your next CTCI Early Bird. (Likely the September issue)

Until next time remember:
"If it Runs, Drive It".
Thank you for your continued support

Jim Rodgers

PLEASE NOTE !

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

What's in that Tbird Trunk For Sale?

- **Ford AOD transmission/bell housing. Includes linkage for shifter, throttle, cooling lines. Bell housing fits 292 & 312 $750.00**
- **Craftsman Drill Press w/stand & doll, includes 3" vise $5.00**
- **Craftsman belt sander, 4"x36" belt & 6" Disc. (extra sandpaper) $60.00**
- **Craftsman 3D sander (extra sanding Discs) $40.00**
- **Halogen shop lights(2) on stand $25.00**
- **Electric car jack and impact gun kit (never used) $40.00**

Contact: Bob Michele Ph#: 602-768-5710

- **Tbird 56/57 Port Hole Hardtop, needs refurb, the glass is good and most of the chrome $ Free!**

Contact Jim Rodgers Ph# 602-300-5792

- **Ford/Tbird 1957 Shop Manual, in fair condition $15.00.**

Contact: Walt Bonneau
email waltbonneau@gmail.com

- **1957 Colonial White Tbird, D-Code in nice condition $39,000.00 or OBO. Located in Peoria, AZ**

Contact: Mike Wood Ph# 602-568-8140

September:

Barb Blair	**9/03**
Effie Duquette	**9/03**
David Williams	**9/04**
Kerry Pokoski	**9/07**
Von Hallauer	**9/14**
Casey Newcomb	**9/15**
Karen Arredondo	**9/15**
Kathi Price	**9/16**
Dave Burklund	**9/19**
Rosemary Henderson	**9/20**
Shirley Goldman	**9/23**
Shirly Bursley	**9/30**

September:

Larry & Phyllis Braasch	**9/03**

Interesting September Facts:

Known as the Harvest Month—

September from the Latin word “septem” meaning seven. It was originally the seventh month of the year in the oldest Roman calendar around 750 B.C where March was the first month of the year until January and February were added as the first two months around 450 B.C.. Further, it had 29 days until the 30th day was added in honor of Julius Caesar.

Tech Facts

The Truth about the Temp Gauge

PROVIDED BY JIM RODGERS AND CONTRIBUTION FROM THE 55–57 THUNDERBIRD FORUM PUBLICATION/JIM ERISTIC

Without the thermostat the car could be running anywhere from 120 degrees and up depending on outside temperatures. If you live in mild weather, it probably runs no more than 160ish. There is a reason they put thermostats in the cooling system... the reason is it's not good for the engine to run below 180 (*Ford 's original equipment thermostat for the 292 & 312 CID is 180 degrees*). At those low temperatures water and other condensates build up in the oil and creates sludge. On the converse, a temperature in excess of 235 degrees can lead to engine failure. I have measured my cars temperature and the factory gauge readings several times and have also compared my results to what others have reported. The measured gauge location results are shown on the attached image.

I believe it's a pretty good representation of what the gauge readings are when the factory system (gauge and sensor) is working as designed. Keep in mind that the factory's temperature gauge accuracy of +/- 4 degrees is typical.

Note: At the highest temperature, the gauge will slightly exceed the H (red) indication mark. This is a clear indication that the water temperature of the engine is dangerously close to engine failure.

Historical Facts

Thunderbird Clothing

PROVIDED BY WALT BONNEAU

By 1956 the Ford Thunderbird name was marketed by Worsted-Tex to provide "Action-cut" sport clothing. (See advertisement below). The Thunderbird (Baby Birds sold 3,500 in 1955 in the first 10-days of sales) surprising Ford management who was driven to increase production volume. The car had become so iconic by mid 1957 that even clothing became part of the offerings. Ford's marketing campaign to provide a personal American luxury car registered two wins for the company. They sold over 53,100 cars in three years and further enhanced the Ford name to both the young population and the wealthy car buyer. The 57 Tbird outsold the 57 Corvette more than 3:1. The average $3,250.00 price tag for a new T-Bird was 25% higher than any other Ford model. Despite an economic down turn in late 1957-1958 the Thunderbird sales remained healthy and profitable. Many celebrities took to the T-Bird including: Marylin Monroe, Clark Gable, Annette Funicello, Dennis Wilson, Doris Day, Sandra Dee, Bing Crosby, Neal Diamond, Frank Sinatra and Senator Barry Goldwater to name a few.

Recent Events

August 19-22, 2024 Des Monies, IA Annual Convention Meeting

The Annual meeting was attended by both Chuck Thompson and Christopher Ames.
(Pictures and Briefing will be in the October Newsletter).

July 14,2024 ACTC Minutes At Rudy's BBQ in Gilbert

- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Rodgers. Jim mentioned that it will be a very informal meeting since we have only 26 people.
- Hospitality: Sang "Happy Birthday" to the people born in July and August since there will be no meeting in August.
- Secretary: Yvonne Wagner - No Report.
- Treasurer: Chuck Thompson was not present. Jim Rodgers reported that we have money and all bills are paid
- CTCI: Chuck Thompson – Not Present – CTCI Convention – Austin Easton running for District ^ Rep.
- Public Relations: Don Henderson – No Report
- Membership: Judy Thompson not present but Jim Rodgers reported we currently have 75 House-holds, 132 members. 17-55's, 16-56's, and 38-57's. Retro birds, 3-2002, 0-2003, 2-2004, and 3-2005.(See six new members posted in September Newsletter).
- Historian: Duane Foster
- Newsletter Editor: Mike Wood said that the Newsletter will be transferred over to Walt Bonneau, Congratulations Mike!
- Vice President: Bob Michele said there are a few events coming up: Midnight @ the Oasis. Walt Bonneau said we have 10 people signed up. Run to the Pines, Beeline Cruise coming up..
- Member at Large: Bob Michele told a few jokes. No meeting in August, the September 8th meeting will be at Barrios Brewery at Deer Valley Airport, October 20th meeting at George's Café in Sun City, November meeting – place still to be determined. December 7th will be a Saturday Lunch @ the Italian -American Club.
- Inspector General: Duane Foster – Rich Bialy's car won
- Old Business: None.
- New Business: The Board is looking at not holding meetings in the months of June, July & August. Will keep the membership updated. Nikki
- Other: Musselmann thrown out of a golf cart and broke an arm. Mike Wood had health issues
- Split the pot: $41 – winner Maria Prokopowicz
- Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Wagner

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Future Events

SEPTEMBER:

ACTC MEETING

LOCATION: Barrio Brewing Co. @ Deer Valley Airport

702 W. Deer Valley Rd. Phoenix

DATE/TIME: Sunday September 8th members arrive between

8:30 am – 9:00 am MISC: Breakfast served at 9:30 am, cost $20.00/person

OCTOBER :

ACTC MEETING

LOCATION: George's Café 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd. Sun City

DATE/TIME: Sunday October 20th members arrive between 8:30 am – 9:00 am

MISC: Breakfast served at 9:30 am, cost $18.00/person

MISC: Cost $30.00/person, Italian Buffet Luncheon, Cash Bar

2024 Beeline Cruise-in Car Show

October 11-12, 2024

The Rim Country Classic Auto Club will be celebrating our 31st annual Cruise-in Car Show October 12th at the beautiful Green Valley Park off of Main Street in the Town of Payson. We are continuing with our tradition of **Classic Cars, Trucks and Rat Rods 1999 or older.** The Town of Payson will be assisting with food trucks and vendor booths, Yard Games, entertainment, and much more! The event will conclude with a fireworks display, weather and fire restrictions permitting.

The weekend's activities start on Friday, Oct 11th at Rumsey Park, to include a classic car cruise around part of town from 3:30-4:30 pm followed by our annual "Burger Burn" cookout (for registrants only). The main show will be on Saturday at Green Valley Park, with parking for the participating cars starting at 7 am.

Car Registration form link on RCCAC website

Continued future events on next page>>>

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative

Future Events

NOVEMBER:

ACTC MEETING

Due to circumstances, The American Legion Hall that I had booked is currently unavailable. This may change by November 10th but I will be looking for another venue just in case.

Club Outing

LOCATION: Scottsdale Pavilions 9120 Talking Stick Way (Indian Bend Rd.)

DATE/TIME: Saturday November 30th members arrive 12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm

MISC: Bring your T-Bird or other classic and hang out for a while.

DECEMBER:

ACTC CHRISTMAS Meeting and LUNCHEON

LOCATION: American/Italian Club 7509 N. 12th St. Phoenix

DATE/TIME: Saturday December 7th 11:30 am – 2:30 am

MISC: Cost $30.00/person, Italian Buffet Luncheon is included, Cash Bar

JANUARY, 2025:

To Be Announced...

MARCH, 2025

Midnight at the Oasis's, Yuma, AZ, Car Show, March 01-03 Event

www.midnightattheoasis.net

APRIL, 2025

Ford Fest 2025 at Gateway Classic Cars Scottsdale, AZ April 5th 2025. This is a Nationwide Ford Fest Car Show.

https://facebook.com/events/s/ford-fest-

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Other News

Your New Newsletter Team

We were asked by the existing long time newsletter editor Mike Wood to provide a briefing on our history and association with Classic Thunderbirds, I along with my wife Lynne have transitioned into being your ACTC Newsletter editors. We look forward to this opportunity in being part of the ACTC family/Staff having the opportunity to communicate to all ACTC members and for that matter other ICTC associated regional clubs. We thank Mike Wood and others in getting us started.

As for my background (Walt); I am a 40 year retired Electrical Engineer as of 2023, holding several executive management positions. During these 40 plus years, I could not help myself in using my creative side, achieved 26 US & Foreign patents. I had the opportunity to work with Texas Instruments, National Semiconductor, Sony and Cubic Corporation, as well as being the Co-founder of a technical consulting business. My career, provided for amazing technical challenges and achievements, as well as, extensive travel to all 50 states and 30 countries.
While Lynne is an expert seamstress and joins me in this newsletter editing, she did most of the hard lifting in raising five children, that provided us with 11 grandchildren.

My interest in Thunderbirds goes back to 1971 (High School), when I was given the opportunity to purchase a 1955 green T-Bird for $1000.00. My father drove and looked at the car and said it was a “worn out junkier”. So, it was not until 1982 when I finally purchased a 1968 Suicide-door Thunderbird (weighing 4,500 lbs.) with a “Thunder-Jet” 429CID rated at 360-380 HP (under rated). This car accommodated our growing family quite well and was very comfortable and reliable. The suicide-doors and sequential rear turn signals attracted plenty of attention. The car was incredibly fast, achieved the 1/4 mile in a best 13.8 seconds.

It was not until, October, 2021 that we finally purchased my present 1957 T-Bird in Torch Red with a Colonial White roof and red Interior. I finally have the T-Bird in very good condition after 107 documented fixes, mostly done by me with Lynne holding the tools more than once. Must say; I have learned so much about these T-Birds over the last 3 years. With the support of other ACTC members. I would not claim to be an expert but now, considered knowledgeable. Ford in 1955-57 created a lasting American car cultural icon that was designed with many innovations. Including: the Safety featured Lifeguard option, telescopic steering column, unitized all metal body, X-frame design, 312 CID engine with optional two-4 barrel carbs or Supercharger, achieving nearly one horsepower per cubic-inch. To this day, I don’t understand Ford’s decision; requiring the car to start only in neutral opposed to park, if equipped with the Ford-O-Matic. Well that is for another newsletter...

I mention these bits of technical information as an introduction to a new planned newsletter column covering T-Bird Tech and History Facts.

We can only hope that we fill the shoes of past editors in a respectable manner.

Walt & Lynne Bonneau

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Other News, Events & Misc.

Welcome New Members

- **Howard & Shirly Goldman**
  Phoenix, AZ 85022
- **John & Kate Marchisotto**
  Bethpage, NY 11714
- **Dale & Marilyn Lillard**
  Phoenix, AZ 85018
- **Tracy & Terry Mosness**
  Sun City, AZ 85373
- **Patrick Lewis & Kathy Postolu**
  Prescott, AZ
- **Karl & Dulcie Martin**
  Peoria, AZ 850XX
- **Jorge Sommerer**
  Phoenix, AZ

A Special Thanks to Eldon Beers of Glendale, AZ for his donation of the 100 Early Bird issues/library dating back to 1970 and the consolidated years of 1963-1968 Early Bird (ICTC) book, believed to be either the only one or possibly of two still in existence.

Request for Newsletter Submissions:

T-Bird Stuff

Contact Walt Bonneau: waltbonneau@gmail.com

All ACTC and ICTC members may submit a request to have an Event, Topic Request, Club Suggestions or Misc. (Thunderbird Related) contribution for publication consideration in the ACTC Newsletter.

Note: *All submissions due by the 20th of each previous month to meet the publication deadline.*

New Membership Request;

See Judy Thompson

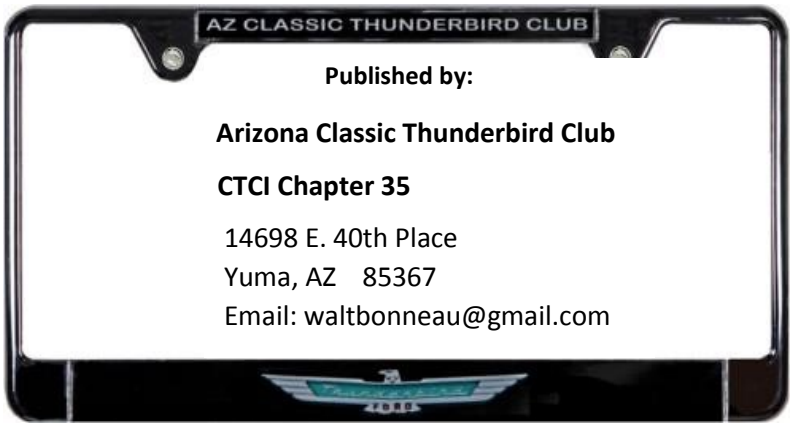
New Advertisers Welcomed;

See Walt Bonneau /Chuck Thompson

Remember All meetings are smoke and cell phone free!

NO SMOKING

Arizona Bird Chatter



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CTCI Chapter 35

14698 E. 40th Place
Yuma, AZ 85367
Email: waltbonneau@gmail.com

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