ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 05 — May, 2025

May

This months featured Tbird is Chuck & Judy Thompson's red 1957 ***(By Chuck Thompson)***

Our beautiful 1957 Thunderbird joined the Thompson family on May 20, 2005. During our 20 years of ownership it has led Judy and me on many travels we would never have thought of enjoying; to meeting many new friends and acquaintances throughout the country; and to a deep understanding of the diversity of this wonderful state that we are fortunate enough to live in.

Much has changed in our life, but so too in the life of this unique Thunderbird. According to the original invoice for our car (original invoices can be purchased from CTCI) it was built on June 7, 1957 and invoiced to Bay Shore Motors, San Diego, California. When originally produced the car was Willow Green with a White hardtop and Willow Green with a Cumberland Green interior. Original equipment was the 312 Ford engine, automatic transmission, engine dress up kit, power steering, full wheel covers and an AM Town & Country Radio.

Little is known about its history between delivery in 1957 and when we purchased the car 48 years later. We do know that prior to our purchase, it was being restored by a gentleman in San Diego who passed away before the restoration was complete. He had already changed the color of the body and hardtop to flame Red and installed classic white interior. His widow then brought the Thunderbird to Tempe for her son-in-law to sell for her at his used truck dealership. Judy and I discovered the Thunderbird on eBay. Since it was located in Tempe, we were able to see it in person prior to purchasing it. And, thanks to the extensive knowledge of Ken Falkenberry, we were able to evaluate the work that still needed to be done and negotiate the final deal.

Since owning the car, we have installed air conditioning, electronic ignition, a backup electric fuel pump, electric wipers and a convertible top. As mentioned, we really did not know the history of our car before we purchased it. So, in 2011, we had the engine and transmission rebuilt to insure many more years of enjoyment. And, of course many, many, many minor tweaks and things to keep the car running great on our many road trips. A special thanks to the many talented ACTC members who have helped us to keep it road worthy in so many ways.

The purchase of a Thunderbird first led us to join the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club and eventually Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI). These Club involvements have resulted in years of trips with ACTC members covering almost every paved backroad in Arizona and caravanning with ACTC friends to so many locations. Our Red Thunderbird, and many ACTC friends have traveled to Denver, Colorado; Portland, Oregon; Springfield, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico and San Diego, California. Closer to home, we have done countless car shows in Pine Top, Tubac, Mesa, Phoenix, Sedona and Flagstaff. Participated in the annual Rt. 66 Fun Run a dozen years, and, caravanned with ACTC friends to Bisbee, Willcox, Safford, Alpine, Jerome, Cottonwood, the Green Valley Titan Missile Silo, Kartchner Caverns to name just a few. It should be noted, that our special Red Thunderbird has never let us down on any of our many trips. With the exception of a couple of flat tires along the way and a few other minor things that could be fixed along the way.

We are proud of the many awards that our special Bird has won, especially achieving Senior Gold status at several CTCI conventions. So, for us, it has not just been about the car. It has more been about a vehicle that led us to friendships and experiences we never would have known. Even including being President of ACTC and CTCI President 3 times. Amazing how one simple car from eBay can be such an influence on our lives.

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From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer

Fellow T-Birders,

Finally spring is here. I hope everyone had a wonderful time spending time together with family and friends for Easter and Passover. Going forward ACTC members met at the Pavilions on March 29th. We had roughly 12 vintage and retro birds represented. What a great turnout and the weather was perfect. We also had members of VTCI attend as well. A couple of board members including myself discussed with Roger and Cosette Ingram from VTCI what the options are for Thunderbird appreciation day on May 18th. We agreed that both clubs will be heading over to the Penske Museum for a tour but,

before we do that we will try to all be together for a pre or post lunch at a restaurant near the museum. Bob Michele has sent out an email with details as to time and where to meet. We will not have a formal meeting since both clubs are getting together for this special day. We held our April meeting on the 13th at the American Legion in Phoenix. As always the breakfast was delicious and we had good turnout. Again good job Bob for putting this together.

Jim Rogers presented the Buck Hoag award at the meeting to past president Chris Ames. He was a devout member of ACTC since 2003 and this award was well deserved. Jim presented the award over the phone to Chris since he is now living in North Carolina. Congratulations to Chris.

On April 26th some of our members will be driving their birds in a parade at Fountain Hills sponsored by the American Legion Post 58. The Silver Rose Parade honors those veterans affected by Agent Orange. Jim Rogers and Terry Duquette are prior recipients. It should be a was a very nice time having these veterans as passengers in our little birds.

As you all know, we will not be meeting from June - August as it is way too hot to do anything. However, we pick up again on Sept. 14th at the American Legion in Phoenix. As part of my summer column, I will have more information on events planned for the fall. There will be one Summer ACTC "Chatter" Newsletter issued mid-July just to keep all up to date and to enjoy the various summer articles about our Tbirds. Including a member featured car, as well as acknowledging all those member birthdays and anniversaries (June, July & August). Have a wonderful summer and with that; I'll end with this thought.

"The only reward of virtue, is virtue: The only way to have a friend is to be one. Emerson-

What's in that Tbird Trunk For Sale?

— 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

— 1957 Ford bird Colonial White (AZ car), Features a Ford 302 V8, AOD-4, AC, PS, PB, Rack & Pinion Steering, Tilt Wheel, Bucket Seats, New Interior . Asking $45,000.00. Located in Phoenix, AZ Contact: Pat Fenlon Ph# (602)-768 -5458.

—Monroe® 1957 Ford Thunderbird - Rear, Driver and Passenger Side Shock, Monro-Matic Plus Series. Part# 31125. Used less than 150 miles. $25.00 for the set.

Contact: waltbonneau@gmail.com

—1956 Thunderbird project car, complete with some new parts, engine needs to be rebuilt. $7500.Peroria, AZ.

Call Mike Wood Ph: 602-568-8140

Tech Facts

The Common Ford Classic Car Worth A Small Fortune Now 70th Year Anniversary

BY DREW MARTZ

Yes, this article is a bit of a stretch to find it being placed in the Tech Fact column. However, for those interested in knowing and achieving the best worth for their Thunderbirds it is worth the read. It also compliments this months Historical Facts column article.

Ford has been a staple of the American automobile industry for well over a hundred years. The company's founder, Henry Ford, was a titan of industry during the 20th century. He was not only responsible for doubling worker wages to $5 in 1914 – an uncommon occurrence at the time — but also for his remarkable work in putting out the first mass-produced car, the Model-T, in 1908 (amongst other things). That being said, Ford's work in the automobile industry has remained a key part of American automotive ingenuity, even long after his passing, with many of the brand's different models still dominating the road in 2025.

However, while modern cars are great for a variety of different safety and environmental reasons, many still argue they simply don't feel the same as classic models, especially for collectors. This being the case, if you are fortunate enough to find yourself in possession of certain classic Ford models, you could have a pretty penny on your hands (not to mention how a collectible classic car can boost your net worth). In fact, many classic Ford models can sell for significant amounts of money — depending on their condition — with one model in particular worth a small fortune, the **Ford Thunderbird.**

When it comes to classic Ford cars, you simply can't beat a model like the Thunderbird. Otherwise known as the T-Bird, this vehicle was first produced in 1955 and remained in production until 1997, before being renewed again between 2002 and 2005.

Continued on top of Page-05>>>

Historical Facts

Ford/ Thunderbird's 1955-1957 John Travola Legendary Tbird Collection

By: Austin Eaton & Walt Bonneau (*11 font to fit article*)
(Excerpt from Jay Leno's YouTube interview 2020)

The Jay Leno YouTube interview in 2020 offered a few pointed reasons why John Travolta likes these particular Tbird car models. Yes, he has a few other collectible cars he also appreciates such as his 1956 Continental, 1960 Mercedes-Benz 280, 1979 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II and his 1958 Turquoise Convertible Thunderbird to name a few. However, when it comes time to talk to others about his car collection, he often heads right to his three little Tbird's.

So, why the 1955 Turquoise Tbird as his reasoning for ownership? John mentions that he always wanted a 1955 Tbird while he was growing-up (he actually purchased his first 55' painted in "Bronze" in the 1970's at the Tbird Store on Culver Blvd in Los Angeles for $2,700. He also mentioned during the interview that he had a special appreciation for the 1955 model; being the original Tbird, as well as its simplicity. It is not too difficult to understand all of his ongoing reasonings for wanting Tbirds in his collection. One reasonable theory might be that in the 1978 movie "Grease" depicting a summer period in 1958, Travolta (Danny in the movie) is wearing a black leather jacket having on the back, the gang label "Tbird's" while, he pursues Sandy a member of the "Pink Ladies" played by Olivia Newton John. This might be one additional reason for his 1955-57 collection complimented by his purchase of a 1958 Convertible Turquoise Thunderbird. During the video interview, Leno asked Travolta which of his three Tbird's did he like the best? His response paraphrased was: "The 1955 model because it was the essence of sport car in simplicity." Having a powerful V8, descent handling and a touch of driving comfort along with clean body design, all added up to his ownership.

Surrounded by very expensive luxury cars and aircraft, it's a bit surreal that a Ford Thunderbird stole John Travolta's heart. For that reason, we invite you to see what is behind John Travoltas love for classic cars and in particular the 1955, 56, 57 & a 58 Ford Thunderbirds.

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Continued from Page-03<<

(Historical Facts)

It is common knowledge that 1955-57 Tbird's and a few Retro-Birds have made numerous appearances in the both movies and TV series. For that matter; a few other Thunderbird models have also seen the big screen such as the 1966 Thunderbird in the hit movie "Thelma & Louise" 1991 and a 1958 Thunderbird in the 1987 movie "La Bamba". This is especially true of the 1955-57 Tbird's. A very good question for TBird enthusiast is: What attracted so many actors and movie producers to include these particular cars in many on screen scenes? A further question: Why have so many actors and producers taken to these cars for their personal use and collections?

It is beyond the scope of this particular article to focus on multiple actors, movies or TV series where Tbird's made appearances. The focus of this article will be on just one of these actors and his strong appreciation for Tbird's. (Previous ACTC Chatter Newsletters such as the February & April, 2025 issues talked more in specifics about celebrity ownership). We have selected John Travolta who has a liking for older/classic cars and provided his own way of thinking about the 1955-57 Tbird's. He has on a few occasions, offered pointed reasons why he likes these particular car models (mentioned previously). Yes, he has a few other collectible cars he also appreciates such as his 1956 Continental-II, 1960 Mercedes-Benz 280, 1979 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II and his 1958 Turquoise Convertible Thunderbird to name a few. However, when it comes time to talk to others about his car collection, he often heads right to his three little Tbird's.

So, why the very nice 1955 Turquoise Tbird as his reasoning for ownership? John mentions that he always wanted a 1955 Tbird while he was growing-up. (He actually purchased his first 55' in Bronze in the mid-1970's at Culver Blvd in Los Angeles called the Tbird Store for $2,700). He also mentioned that he had an appreciation for the 1955 being the original Tbird, as well as its overall simple approach to being sporty. It is difficult to fully understand all of his reasoning but, it's a reasonable theory that in the 1978 movie "Grease" depicting a summer period in 1958, Travolta (Danny in the movie) is wearing a black leather jacket having on the back, the gang label "Tbird's" while he pursues Sandy a member of the "Pink Ladies" played by Olivia Newton John. This might be one additional reason for his 1955-57 collection and his 1958 Convertible Thunderbird choices? During a video interview with Jay Leno nearly six years back. Jay asked Travolta which of his three Tbird's did he like the best? His response paraphrased was: "The 1955 model because it was the essence of a sport car in its simplicity (a theme he repeated several times over the years)." Having a powerful V8, descent handling and a touch of driving comfort along with clean body lines, all added up to his favorite.

Stepping forward, Travolta experienced the 1957 Tbird's styling and added features leading to the yellow 57' now being his favorite TBird. The yellow TBird was also chosen to be in his daughter's (Ella Blue Travolta) first music video entitled "Little Bird", as she also has an appreciation for older classic cars. The video is a tribute to her late mother Kelly Preston and life.

Pictures are Public Clips from YouTube/Internet

Continued from Page-03
(Tech Facts)

Even though this model is no longer produced today, this particular vehicle has a rich history behind it meaning that if you are in possession of one of the older models you could make $$$$ from its sale.

For starters, if you have a 1st generation Ford Thunderbird, which was produced between 1955 and 1957, it could be worth quite a bit depending on the quality of the vehicle.

While first generation Thunderbird models sell for around $42,000, on average according to Classic.com, some can and have sold for significantly more. In fact, one mint condition 1957 convertible model sold for $495,000 in 2023, so it's probably worth consulting with an expert appraiser to see just how much your first generation model might be worth.

1967 Ford Bronco Mod

Seeing as how the Ford brand has been around for so long, it goes without saying that the company has produced multitudes of what are now considered classic cars. This being the case, many other Ford models — besides the T-bird — can similarly be worth quite a bit of money today. Take the Ford Bronco for example, a popular vehicle during the 1990s that was arguably made even more popular due to the infamous police chase and subsequently expensive trial of O.J. Simpson. While the exact vehicle from said police chase went up for sale in 2024 for a whopping $1.5 million dollars, it is worth noting that Classic.com places the average price for a 1993 Ford Bronco closer to around $23,000, while a first generation Bronco sells for an average of $81,000.

Another Ford model with a rich history, the Mustang, is held in especially high regard within the muscle-car community. First produced in 1964 (*Introduced at the 1964 New York Worlds Fair*), there have been seven generations of the model so far, with Mustangs still in production in 2025. When looking across all years, the average price for a Mustang sits around $44,000, according to Classic.com. With that said, a first generation 1969 Mustang Boss 429 sold for $605,000 in 2023. (*Editors comment: Placing the Early Tbirds and early Mustangs on par for value*).

The Ford Thunderbird — Read More: **https://www.moneydigest.com/1810978/classic-first-generation-ford-car-worth-ton-of-money/**

Classic Thunderbird Movie/TV Series Trivia

a. **What Nevada based detective TV show co-starred a 57' TBird?**

b. **Was this iconic Tbird ever crashed during one or more of the episodes? If you think it was which episode?**

Yes, theses questions will get harder as the months go by.

Also I want to thank Austin Eaton for his suggestion to add this new fun element to the newsletter.

Answers on Page-16

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May

Name	Date
Richard Stoneberger	05/01
Dave Mock	05/04
Jody Pokorski	05/13
Bill Heiden	05/20
Bob Sioles	05/23
Angie Fenlon	05/24
Carter Rodgers	05/25
Justine Eaton	05/26
Nikki Musselmann	05/26
Russ Hanson	05/27
Austin Eaton	05/31
Danny Kim	05/31

The Emerald Month

Established as the month of May's birthstone at least three centuries ago, if not more. May's Emerald birthstone (brilliant in its deep green color), is considered the rarest of all the birthstones and chariest by many, especially the rich and famous for it deep green presentation. Often known as the "stone of protection". The deeper the green the more valuable the stone.

May

Name	Date
Bill and Robyn Dodd	05/06
Bob and Donna Sioles	05/14
Gregg and Linda Thurston	05/20
Doug and Ellen Shearer	05/22
Mike and Toni Doles	05/28

Interesting May Facts:

The name "May" originates from the Latin word *Maius*, likely referring to the **goddess Maia**. She embodied the concept of growth and fertility, both in nature and in business. Others also connect *Maius* with *Maiores*, the ancestors or "the greater ones." May is the last spring seasonal astronomical month in the northern half of the world, and a astronomical fall month in the southern half. In May, the ancient Romans celebrated *Floralia*, a festival for fertility.

- *The May Emerald birthstone, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word "smaragdus," means, quite literally, "green" in Greek.*
- *Emerald gemstones were mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emerald gemstones. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. Columbia is also well known for its Emerald mines and stone quality.*
- *The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry and in their elaborate burials, often burying emerald stones with monarchs as symbols of protection.*
- *May's flower is the:*

  "Lily of the Valley"

April 2025 ACTC Board Meeting Minutes

ACTC APRIL 13th, 2025 MEETING MINUTES American Legion Post 107 Meeting called to order 9:02 AM by President Doug Shearer.

- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Wagner.

⇒ **Miscellaneous Announcements:** made by Bob Michele before the breakfast was served included a mention that next year/season more of the meetings will be held at this location. Most in the group supported that choice.

⇒ **Ms. Hospitality:** Yvonne Wagner: requested get well card(s) for Effie Duquette, Happy Birthday was sung to April Birthday Club members. Greetings to visitors John and Kathy Marchisotto, Amy Falkenberry.

⇒ **Secretary**: No report.

⇒ **Historian**: No report.

⇒ **Website:** Russ Hanson mentioned that there were no new issues and the website was still working to plan.

⇒ **Event Planning** Bob Michele: Offered two of his many Jokes. He mentioned the "Romeo and Ladies Who Lunch" will be at Spinatos on April 23, 202 5. He also made a request for more T'Bird drivers for Silver Rose Parade in Fountain Hills on April 26th, 10 AM. Bob mentioned that May 18, 2025 is National Thunderbird Appreciation Day…drive your T'Birds. May Meeting/Informal will be a joint meeting with ACTC and the Vintage Thunderbird Club at the Penske Auto Museum. Members will plan lunch groups and restaurants after the Museum tour. There will be no ACTC meetings in June, July, or August but a Summer Newsletter will be published Mid-July.

⇒ **Treasurer Report:** Chuck Thompson: An interest-bearing account has been created for ACTC monies, all accounts are "good". CTCI Report: Chuck Thompson: The National Convention is in Grapevine, Texas, this Fall, Sept. 13-19th .

⇒ **Membership:** Judy Thompson: 69 Households, 117 members, 56 Classic T'Birds, 13 Retro T'Birds.

⇒ **Newsletter:** Walt Bonneau mentioned that in the Summer (Mid-July) edition of the newsletter that Rick Baily's Buckskin 56' Tbird will be the featured car, the first Buckskin Tbird to be featured. Walt also mentioned that one of the Club Newsletter Supporters "WiseFit" provided five published Financial Books for free to the ACTC. All five were taken by various members.

⇒ **Ways & Means**: Walt Bonneau highlighted the new T-shirts with new logo designed by Austin Eaton and enhanced by Graphics Designer from Salty Dog Company, shown and sold to Club members during Encanto event and this meeting. A total of 37 T-Shirts have been sold. There is still time to reserve a shirt if you want one, however, the Women's shirts are now sold out and Men's inventory is somewhat low.

⇒ **Buck Hoag Award**: A long-distance call was placed to Chris Ames in NC presenting him the Buck Hoag Award. Jim Rodgers accepted the Award on his behalf.

⇒ **Other Business**: President: Doug Shearer: A big thank you to Danny Kim and Jim Cook for purchasing and donating a new sound system to ACTC. Also new ACTC Business Cards were handed out to Club members.

⇒ **Inspector General**: Steve Kovacic: Selected Car awarded to Sheri Dohm. Split the Pot Winner: Bill Dodd, $71.00. Meeting Adjourned: 10:25 AM. *Respectfully submitted: Myrna Foster, Secretary*

Recent Events

March 29th, 2025 Scottsdale Pavilions

Submitted by: Bob Michele

Weather being beautiful, there were 19 ACTC members who brought 14 Classic cars for our bi-annual outing event. We had 10 Baby-Birds, 2 Retro Birds and two classic Chevy's in attendance.

After lunch we all gathered in a circle and many of the world's problems were thought to have been solved, that's funny… nothing seems to have changed??

Also in attendance were six classics from the Vintage Classic Thunderbird Club who parked with us. The President and his wife got together with Doug Shearer, Chuck Thompson and myself to set in motion a plan for an outing on Sunday May 18th which, is National Thunderbird Appreciation Day.

A lunch (member selected) and tour of the Penske Auto Museum in Scottsdale is now in the planning stage. See the future events section and the ACTC club wide email sent out, the plans are pretty much finalized. This should be a very enjoyable event and what a great way to enter our ACTC summer break until we all meet again in September.

Plenty of Baby Birds and a few Classic Chevys

ACTC members gather at the Pavilions after lunch

Guess who is in Yellow?

Move Recent Events, Page-09>>>

Recent Events

Continued from Page-08 <<

ROMEO Luncheon at Spinato's Restaurant
March 26th, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

On Wednesday March 26th, nine members of the ACTC got together at Spinato's Restaurant in Phoenix for the ACTC's informal monthly "ROMEO Luncheon. Those attending (see pic below) in order from front-left going clockwise: Frank Saccente, Jim Rodgers, Don Henderson, Kerry Pokorsky, George Sommerer, Bill Dodd, Wes Henderson, Doug Shearer and Bob Michele. This ROMEO luncheon was truly a special day, as **we all celebrated Don Henderson's 89th birthday**. Don is a long-time **50 Year member** of the ACTC (Our longest active member), and is well known to be one of the best Tbird technical mechanics within our club, affectionally known as one of our go to people when someone's Tbird is not chirping correctly. He is also, often a contributor to the Tech Facts section of the ACTC Newsletter.

We were all appreciative when George Sommerer who volunteered to pay for everyone's lunch, thank you George. The get together was a fun event and good food to boot.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DON!

Mecum Glendale, AZ Auction, March 19th, 2025

⇒ 12 plus ACTC members enjoyed the free passes and toured the Mecham Auction. It was reported that just a few Tbirds were in the auction but needed restoration. Attendees enjoyed the over 1,000 cars being auctioned and sold. The highest auctioned $$$ car was a 1967 White Chevrolet Corvette L88 Coupe selling for $1.815 million.

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Recent Events

Continued from Page-09 <<

Sun. Apr. 13th, 2025 - American Legion (Irving B. Selmer Post 107)
20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix, **ACTC- Meeting:**

The ACTC meeting started at around 9:00AM and ended close to 10:30am, was attended by nearly 50-members, a really nice show up. This was our last ACTC official meeting before the Summer Break. Most of us are now getting ready to manage another hot dry summer in the Southwest.

There were both Classic Tbirds (8) and Retro-Tbirds (3) present in the parking lot for the meeting. A few of the notable special meeting highlights were: 1.) Bob's Good Jokes, 2.) Our New ACTC T-Shirts were available. 3.)We thanked Danny and Jim for donating a new excellent portable PA system. 4.) A presentation about the upcoming CTCI Annual Meeting hosted in Grapevine, TX. 5.) Honoring Chris Ames with the well deserved 21st Awarded Buck Hoag Recipient via Facetime call. (See Page-11 For Pictures of the Award Presentation. There was plenty of good conversation around the tables and most are looking forward to the Penske Museum event on May 18th before we break for the summer.

What's wrong with this Tbird? Well that problem won its owner the Inspector Generals vote.

Recent Events

Continued from Page-010<<

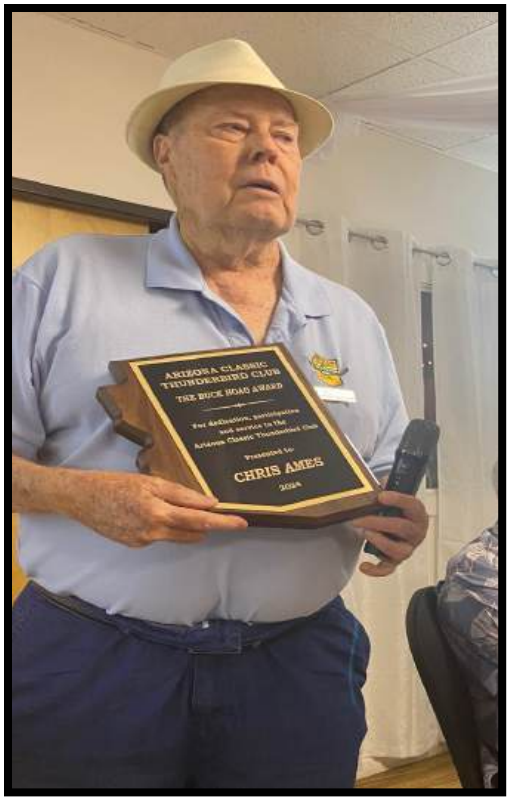
Sun. Apr. 13th, 2025 - American Legion (Irving B. Selmer Post 107)
20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix, **ACTC- Meeting Presentation:**

BUCK HOAG AWARD RECIPIENT

Jim Rodgers presented the ACTC 2024' Buch Hoag award to past Club President Chris Ames who was located remotely in North Carolina during the presentation honors. Using a Facetime connection for Ames to his participation in real-time during our meeting was nice for all at the meeting. Jim highlighted Ames' many accomplishments and dedicated service over his 21 years with the ACTC. It is interesting that he was a 21 year ACTC member and the 21st Buck Hoag Award Recipient. We gather 21 may be his new lucky number!

Jim, all so acknowledged Ames for his Ford 312 CID Y-Block increased water flow pump adapter invention; that has kept many of these Tbirds operating cooler in the hot weather especially when the car is equipped with air conditioning.

We want to thank Chris for all he has done and wish him only the best, we do miss his ACTC participation. (Below are a few of the presentation pictures):



Jim presenting to Chris Ames the award while watching Chris on the iPhone using Facetime.

Future Events

The Following events listed on this page are Near-term Club Events. See Page –13 for the full year events.

Sat. Apr. 26th - American Legion #Post 58 — Silver Rose Parade, Fountain Hills

The Fountain Hills American Legion is hosting the Silver Rose Parade honoring those veterans who were affected by Agent Orange. Two of ACTC's current and past members, Jim Rodgers and Terry Duquette, are prior recipients of this prestigious award. The Commandant of the post has reached out to me to see if we could provide convertible classics for the current recipients of the Silver Rose Award. They would be honored to ride in our cars for this parade. The date is **Saturday April 26th** with a line up time of around 10:00 am. They would like 15 Tbirds ASAP! Contact Bob Michele. Also see April 01, 2025 ACTC email for details.

Sun. May 18th National Thunderbird Appreciation Day

(The Board organized a joint event with the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) to arrange for a joint Meeting/Cruise/Event, cost is free. Penske Museum tour in Scottsdale, AZ (**Also see Page-13 for more details**)

This marks the 70th year since the first 1955 Tbird Model

(***Yes, introduced officially in late 1954 but, it was still a 1955 model)***

JUNE, JULY and AUGUST, 2025

"Beat the Heat" — ACTC's SUMMER BREAK

There will be one Chatter Newsletter publication released Mid-July so, that the membership may stay connected with upcoming events, birthdays/anniversaries and prep for welcome back in Sept., 2025.

SAVE the DATE! (Confirmed) - Early Registration Started last month!

The CTCI and VTCI joint hosted Inaugural Convention will be held in Grapevine, TX (Near DFW) from: September 9th – 13th, 2025. Join other Thunderbird enthusiast for this once a year gathering. ACTC members please sign-up for this event as soon as possible. Represent our ACTC support. This will be 5 days of Vintage/Classic Tbird Information, Judging, Awards, Tours, Food and plenty of fun shared with others who appreciate the Thunderbird as one of the worlds most iconic automobiles.

Host Information: Embassy Suites Hotel with a special rate of $159.00/night, Reservation Code: C-90E (Breakfast Included)

Address: 2401 Bass Pro Drive, North Grapevine, TX 76051. Ph#: 972-724-2600

Cutoff Date: August 12, 2025

Link: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/all-thunderbird-club-2025/

Notes:

- **The Host Hotel is mostly sold out but there are other choices available.**
- As of this newsletter publication 6 members of the ACTC are planning on going to the convention.

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative

ACTC Year-2025 MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Wednesday April 23rd ROMEO luncheon & Ladies Who Lunch

Meet 1:00pm at Spinatos's Restaurant located: 5509 N 7th St and E Missouri Ave, Phoenix **Confirmed**

Saturday April 26th American Legion Post 58 Silver Rose Parade **Confirmed**

Meet at 10:00am at the American Legion Hall 16837 E. Parkview Ave., Fountain Hills.
We will be with members from the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI), All together we should have 15 convertible Thunderbirds in the parade.

Sunday, May 18th National Thunderbird Appreciation Day **Confirmed**

A joined event with the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) at the **Penske Auto Museum** located at 7191 E. Chauncey Lane Phoenix. (Chauncey Lane runs west to Scottsdale Rd, south of the 101). The Museum entrance fee is free of charge and the group will be meeting at 11:45 AM. After the Museum tour which, averages 1-1.5 hours, everyone is welcome to find a nearby restaurant to meet with other members.

TBD Tech Date: *Notice: The planning date window has been moved to Fall or likely within the month of October-2025 for this ACTC event.*

(Still open to event subject matter suggestions). Need addition assistance with organizing this event!) Don Henderson, Mike Wood, Bob Michele, Jim Cook, Austin Eaton, Jim Rodgers and Walt Bonneau have volunteered so far. **Update:** We are continuing to make progress on the Tech Day Event. Already excellent event suggestions have been submitted.

June, July, August Summer Vacation

There will be only 1 Summer Newsletter for the June/July/Aug months, to be issued in mid July.

———————————————————————————————————————

Sunday. Sep. 14th —American Legion (Irving B. Selmer Post 107) 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix. **ACTC Meeting** Members arrive 8:30 am – 9:00 am Breakfast served @ 9:30 am Cost TBD, **(Confirmed)**

Sat. or Sun. Oct. 11th or 12th —TBD but… A Picnic /Meeting is being considered for these dates.

Sunday Nov. 9th —American Legion Meeting Irving B. Selmer Post 107) 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix **ACTC Meeting** Members arrive 8:30 am– 9:00 am Breakfast served @ 9:30 am, Cost TBD
(Confirmed but, may also change)

Saturday. Nov.. 29th — Day at the Scottsdale-Pavilions Outing Bi-annual

Reserved Parking 12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm arrival Event, **(Confirmed)**

Dec. 2025 Christmas party (TBD), in the works...

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative

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Other ACTC Information to Know

ACTC Apparel Still Available for Sale

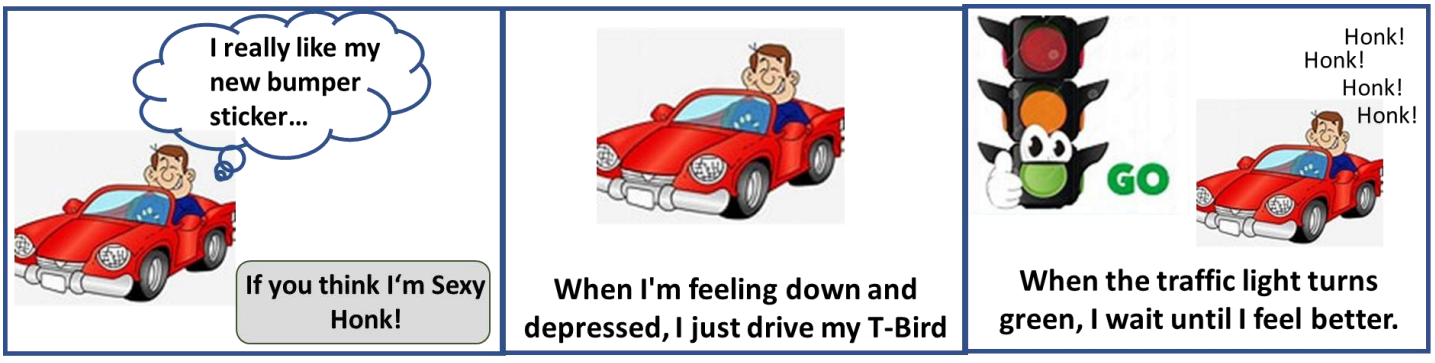
Reserve a T-Shirt now… (Inventory is getting low for some sizes)

The new **ACTC women's(SOLDOUT) and men's T-shirts** went on sale six-weeks ago. Sales have been good with 75% of the these shirts already sold. If you want to purchase a Men's T-shirt made of 90 to 100% Soft-Cotton (Silk- screened, not iron-on stickers), you might want to reserve/purchase a T-Shirt at the Sunday May 18th at the Penske Museum Event (See Lynne Bonneau). The price is set at $23.00 ea. for all of the T-shirts with the exception of the 2XL priced at $24.00 ea. Sample T-Shirt pictures are provided below

(See Page–14 for Walt or Chuck's contact information).

On The lighter-side of the Bird…

Driving my T-Bird makes me feel Sooo.. much better!



The Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club (ACTC)

Founded as Chapter #35 of the CTCI on October 11, 1970 and Arizona Incorporated on November 30th, 1971. Originally established with six charter members but has continued to grow with well over 100 plus members with 68 Classic and Retro Thunderbirds in 2025. We are part of Southwest Region # 06 of CTCI's Regions.

The ACTC has membership from all over the State of Arizona and participates in various classic car show events throughout the State. Our Club Emblem is the State of Arizona with the Thunderbird.

Our President's Goal in 2025; to continue the growth of the club and it's membership while working toward establishing more ways for the membership to enjoy being part too the ACTC environment.

ACTC 2025 Committee Members

Activities	**Bob Michele**	**602-768-5710**
Auditor	**Tom Wagner**	**602-448-1891**
Assistant Treasurer	**Kathy Michele**	**602-799-8518**
Bird Chatter Newsletter Editor	**Walt Bonneau**	**858-699-2883**
Buck Hoag Award	**Jim Rogers**	**602-300-5792**
CTCI Representative	**Chuck Thompson**	**480-773-0222**
Email Coordinator	**Bob Michele**	**602-768-5710**
Historian	**Duane Foster**	**602-482-4010**
Hospitality	**Yvonne Wagner**	**602-448-2962**
Inspector General	**Steve Kovacic**	**928-775-2675**
Membership	**Judy Thompson**	**602-625-2052**
Nominating Lead	**Open Position**	
Public Relations	**Don Henderson**	**602-622-3365**
Webmaster	**Russ Hanson**	**623-229-0210**

Elected 2025 Board/Officers

President	**Doug Shearer**	**516-369-4660**
Vice President	**Bob Michele**	**602-768-5710**
Secretary	**Myrna Foster**	**602-677-4558**
Treasurer	**Chuck Thompson**	**480-773-0222**
Ways and Means	**Walt Bonneau**	**858-699-2883**
Board Member at Large	**Bob Michele**	**602-768-5710**
Ex-Officio	**Jim Rodgers**	**602-300-5792**

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Other News, Events & Misc.

Welcome New Member (s)

No new Members this month

Request for Newsletter Submissions:

T-Bird Stuff

Contact Walt Bonneau: waltbonneau@gmail.com

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

Note: All submissions are due by no later than the 16th of each previous month to meet the publication deadline for the following month.

Special Note: **We want to extend our thanks to our sister Tbird Clubs who the ACTC shares Newsletters with, as follows: Sacramento, CA (SCTC), Palm Springs, CA (PSCTC), Smokey Mtn Classic Tbird Club, Knoxville, TN., Big "D" Little Bird Dallas, TX. And Hawkeye Classic Tbird Club Des Moines, IA. And the VTCI Phoenix Chapter. More to come...**

We would like to continue to acknowledge our eight ACTC Newsletter supporters/advertisers for the 2025 year. Let's continue to show them our member support in return! If you purchase a service or product from them be sure to let them know you are with the ACTC.

Movie/TV Series Trivia Answers:

A.) Vega$, b.) Yes, Episode titled "Double Down, Triple Threat" Season 2:10 in Oct. 3, 2005.

New Membership Request;

See Judy Thompson

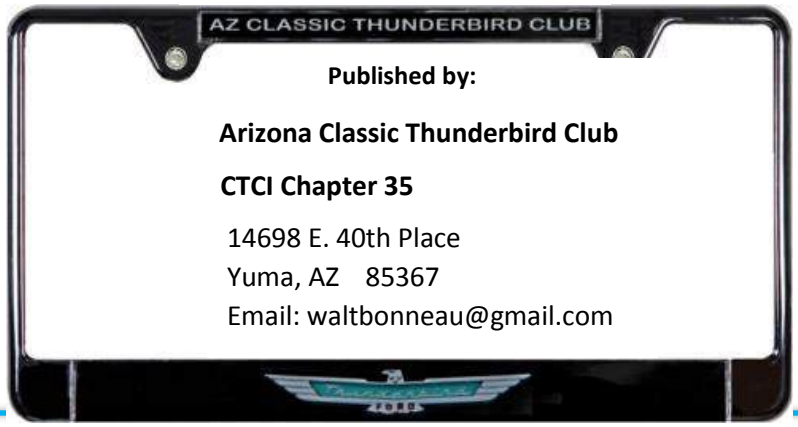
New Advertisers Welcomed;

See Walt Bonneau /Chuck Thompson

Remember All meetings are

NO SMOKING

Arizona Bird Chatter



Published by:

Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club

CTCI Chapter 35

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