



# ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 02 — February, 2026 [CTCI-2025/2026 Gold Medallion](#)

## February

### This months Featured Tbird

This months featured T-Bird is owned by Jack & Nikki Musselmann of Chandler, AZ, 30 year members of the ACTC.

We are proud to share the story of our 1957 Colonial White Thunderbird—a car that has been part of our lives, travels and ACTC club memories for decades.

We purchased this beautiful T-Bird from a gentleman who had owned it for only about six months before entering the service. At this point, it became necessary for his sister to sell the car. He had originally purchased it from the original owner, an ASU professor, the vehicle was already in remarkable condition.

After acquiring the car, we completed a total restoration. The Thunderbird was truly pristine, including a convertible top that had never been put-up. The car is fully equipped with both tops and features added air conditioning, power steering and brakes accompanied by electric wipers. Under the hood is the original 312 V8 (D-code) engine paired to an Automatic Transmission.

While the mechanicals remain faithful to the era, the car also includes a 10 Disc CD Stereo with amplifier to better enjoy touring. All the gauges and clock are original to preserve the authenticity and charm of this classic.

Over the years, the car has been highly recognized, earning two Gold CTCI trophies, one Silver and one Bronze CTCI trophies. It has attended CTCI conventions in Colorado, Missouri, Arizona and Oregon.

This T-Bird has been driven thousands of miles throughout the Western United States and Canada. Many car shows, parades and unforgettable trips with the club have been enjoyed behind the wheel. One particularly memorable journey was our trip to Edmonton, Canada where 5 Thunderbirds traveled together. While coming down the coast our T-Bird was rear ended, damaged the back driver's side taillight. The individual who hit us fled the scene but was later chased down by fellow club members with local police becoming involved—an incident that ultimately engaged much of the small town where it occurred. Despite the challenges of that trip, the mechanical toll was minimal. Out of the 5 cars, only 3 speedometers, one set of tires and our damaged taillight that required attention.

Today, this 1957 Colonial White Thunderbird (69 year old car his month), remains a treasured part of our lives. It has been featured in countless parades and car shows while traveling extensively across Arizona and much of the USA. It continues to create memories wherever it goes. *By: Jack and Nikki Musselmann*





## From the President's Desk

### "Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer

Fellow ACTC T-Birders,

I would like to thank those members for turning out at our first monthly meeting of the year on Sunday 1/11. A really nice turnout, along with new members that signed up for this year were in attendance as well. It was great to see everyone again after our fun-fun Christmas Party.

I would also like to thank the members for taking a moment of silence to honor the passing of Wade Myers and hopefully seeing some of you at his Celebration of Life on 2/17/26 (See page-09 for further details).

I also just found out from Bob Michele that another long-time member Stuart Wright had just passed and that visitation will be on 1/23/26 (See Page-09 for more details). Also a flyer/notice was sent out by Bob on 1/15/26 with some details. Our condolences go out to both families during this most difficult time.

After our meeting, the board requested to have members stay behind to discuss and plan events for the upcoming year. As it turned out the February 8th meeting was canceled and changed to the 15th. Instead, we will do something a bit different by having a luncheon and then, we will caravan to a private residence to see a unique private car collection. All details were sent out as a flyer from Bob on the 12th and are also in this issue of the Chatter on Page-12 for further details. I Hope most of you can make it to this event, it should be fun.

Further details on what ideas were discussed and planned will be sent out in the weeks to come. As I've stated before we need volunteers to help form committees to organize events. Anyone interested can call either myself or Bob. I also request that a member or members volunteer to set up a nominating committee for next year's election of board members. I will remind those in attendance at further meetings throughout this year, as well.

*The Best, Doug*

**With that said; I offer you this thought:**

**"One always has time enough, if one will apply it well"**  
—Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe—



### What's in that T-Bird 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 Thunderbird, D Code, Starmist Blue. 312 V8, FoMoCo 3 speed automatic transmission, A/C, power steering & (front disc) brakes, electronic ignition, electric fuel pump, secondary electric fan. Very Good Condition, everything works, runs great. Asking \$59,999.

Contact Bob Michele @ (602)-768-5710



⇒ 1956 Thunderbird project car, complete with some new parts, engine needs to be rebuilt. \$7,500. Peoria, AZ. Call Mike Wood Ph: 602-568-8140





⇒ **1956/57 Thunderbird, black canvas soft-top**, clear back window, with all hardware included (Swing arm). Ready to install. Asking \$2950.

**Contact: Allen Mccutchen Ph #: 602-684-0737**



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[www.lizlaster.com](http://www.lizlaster.com)



## What's in that Tbird Trunk For Sale?

Continued from Page-02

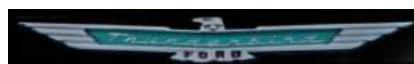
⇒ Offering several Vintage Memorabilia items that are “All about Thunderbird”. Below is a sampling of this extensive +30 year collection as depicted, plus many other items. If you are interested in seeing the collection and to purchased one or more of these collectables, they are being offered for sale by:

**Contact:**

**Rich Bialy—Txt or call at (480)-231-0879**



**Your For Sale Advertisement of T-Bird related  
products or cars can be placed here and is free  
to active ACTC members.**



## Tech Facts

### Keeping Your T-Bird Operating Cool, a follow-up to Tech Day-2025

By :Walt Bonneau, Don Henderson and Jim Cook

During Tech Day-2026 on October 18, 2025, one of the primary technical subjects addressed was methods to keeping those T-Birds running cool (temperature wise), and reliable. This was a well attended/appreciated subject with live demonstrations. As with many mechanical solutions there is often more than one way to fix/enhance the factory cooling system of a 55-57 T-Bird. Understand, the 55-57 T-Bird was never designed with an air conditioning (AC) system in mind. Ford did not offer or recommend installing AC.

First a bit of history: Ford and other manufacturers did test at proving grounds in Arizona and Michigan even back to the early 1930's so their cars could handle hot environments. However, it has become apparent over time that some of the testing results were a bit optimistic or limited. Knowing that a 55-57 T-Bird with a Y-Block typically operates a bit warmer than most engines of that period. That said; Factory T-Birds as mentioned above, did not have the option of factory AC. Given the already upper limits of the T-Birds cooling system, this should be of no surprise. Ford really did not expect that T-Birds owners in such numbers would try to install after market AC system that placed enough load on the Y-Block, generating more engine heat than the cooling system could manage especially at idle, not to speak of the electrical system. Temperatures in the summer months of the desert southwest at ambient can reach 125 degrees with low humidity. Especially when idling for short periods of time (10-15mins) would likely cause unwanted overheating events.

T-Bird's factory cooling systems were equipped with two-row brass radiator cores, three or four blade engine driven fans with a 180 degree thermostat (*to keep the engine hot enough to limit engine oil sludge build-up, common with 160 degree thermostats*), and marginal pressurized radiator cap. The 180 thermostats unfortunately also raises the standard operating engine temp to 180-190 degrees, meaning that operation at idle within a +110 degree environments pushed the engine temperature over 210 degrees especially under added AC loading. Placing a demand on the Y-Block by 15-20 percent leading to heating overflow events of over 220 degrees (entering the danger zone). So, how best to solve over heating issues in your T-Bird especially with an after market installed AC system?

## Historical Facts

### Ford's Thunderbird Duplicated in Fiberglass

By: Walt Bonneau

While looking/researching multiple articles about 55-57 Ford T-Bird restoration, we kept finding references to complete body kits that have been available since the mid- 1980's. Regal Roadsters, LTD. based in Madison, WI have offered these fiberglass T-Bird bodies since 1985/86 and continue to sell them today. Their replica fiberglass bodies are considered top quality and do look just like the steel original body. It is estimated that with the combined fiberglass replicas bodies offered by Regal Roadsters, Dofral Industries (Turnkey car) and Shay company, there may be well over 250 such T-Birds on the road and or being built. They are more so popular in the eastern part of the United



1955 1956 1957 Thunderbird Body Fiberglass REGAL T-BIRD Replica \$13,995.00



Completed fiberglass T-Bird 56'

States and Canada simply because those who want to drive a T-Bird year round but, do not want to deal with road salt corrosion and a rusting body prefer the fiberglass bodies. The price tag for a Fiberglass body ranges from \$4,500 used to \$14,000 plus new.

It is not easy finding an original metal T-Bird body that is restorable, if you do, it will likely run you \$7,500 to \$10,000 plus. It is a potential opportunity that an ACTC club member has listed in this issue's section: ["What's in that T-bird Trunk For Sale?"](#), a restorable steel original 1956 T-Bird with driveline and a port hole hardtop.

*Continued on top of Page-05>>>*



*Continued from Page-04<< (Historical Facts)*

There are several fiberglass products/parts now available. As there is also a growing interest in moderately modified T-Birds that are still using the steel body but complimented with fiberglass components. An excellent example was ACTC member Mike Wood's T-Bird, previously created and recently sold, the tastefully done modified T-Bird, known as the "Angry Bird" (See Below).

This short list of these other T-bird components recreated in fiberglass is as follows: Side Tire Skirts, Hood, Different/modified Front Bumpers and Rear Bumpers and Hardtops to name some.



**The 1956 "Angry Bird" Circa 2023**



**The 1955 "Ritchie Brandl Fiberglass T-Bird Replica**

This article below says it all about the true classic car enthusiast who wants to drive a classic with modifications but does not want to step too far from the original design.

#### **1955 T-Bird Regal Aftermarket Body Replica**

**Ritchie Brandl didn't like the idea of cutting up an original T-Bird; he had a better idea (Old Ford Slogan)**

*Published in Motor Week in 2006 by Mark Houlahan. (Abbreviated Version)*

When it comes to classic cars of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, there's several companies that make reproduction fiberglass body parts. Popular models, such as the Model T, '32 to '34 Fords, and more, can be had in various designs with prechopped tops, suicide doors, and other trick "rodder" upgrades that would be quite a bit of work to accomplish on an original steel body. Luckily for Ritchie Brandl of Hudson, Florida, his '55-'57 Thunderbird dream car was just such a model available from an aftermarket body company. In this case, Regal Roadsters Ltd. had what Ritchie was looking for, a complete '55 T-bird replica in fiberglass that included a one-piece body tub that rides on a jig-welded 2x4 custom steel tube frame.

It took Ritchie, his two sons, Frank, and Jimmy about nine months of on-and-off work to complete the project (*while also building other customer cars*), with just a twist of the key, Ritchie can now enjoy the 'glass-bodied 'Bird and its modern drivetrain whenever he feels like motoring around town or frying the stock-looking 14-inch rubber bands out back.

The reason this topic is addressed in this section of the newsletter is simple; It should be of interest to the membership within the ACTC to know that after 70 years, there are still companies willing to invest in such products for the T-Birds classic vintage models of 1955-57. The underlying message; after 70 years there is sufficient interest in these iconic cars to warrant such expensive design and manufacturing investments in such products for these T-Birds.

#### **Classic Thunderbird Movie/TV Series Trivia**

- 1.) Can you name the three movies/TV Series where 1955-57 T-Birds made cameo appearances?
- 2.) Can you name the three movies/TV series where the 1958-60 Thunderbirds made cameo appearances?
- 3.) What Thunderbird made a cameo appearance in the 1994 Movie the "Crow" because of its camera friendly look according to Hollywood directors?
- 4.) What movie filmed in 2002 created a special model of the 2003 Retro T-Bird?

**Bonus: What year Thunderbird was the center piece of the movie Thelma and Louise? Answer on Page-15>>>**



<<Continued from Page-04 (Tech Facts)

Don Henderson and Jim Cook provided during Tech Day solid approaches/solutions to having optional AC installed while also having your engine run cool enough to stay in the safe zone.

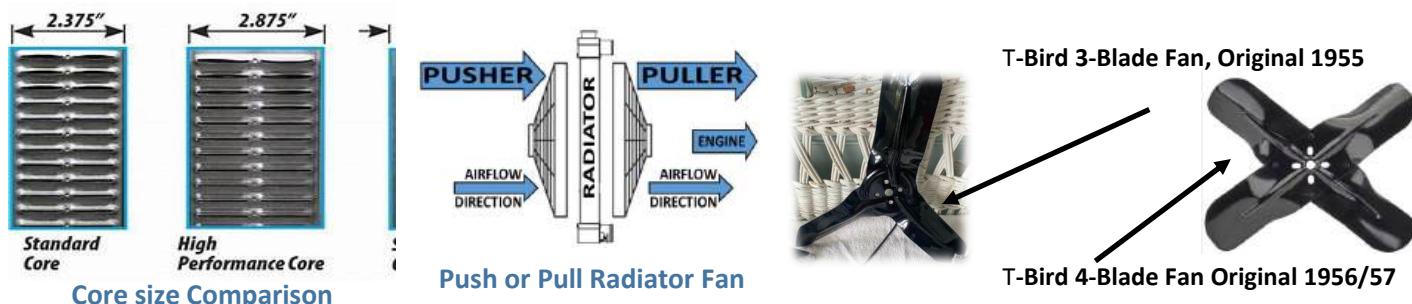
Jim's T-Bird was upgraded to accommodate an AC system. His workable approach was to add a two row opposed to a 3 or 4-row core aluminum radiator with large high-performance core design and electric manually selectable "Pusher Fan". The Aluminum 2 core radiator was made to fit into the 1957 T-Bird and painted black only on the engine side to match the original radiator looks. The benefits of higher heat transfer properties of aluminum are defined below as is the comparison of 2, 3 and 4 cores. Keeping in mind the copper/brass original radiator do have a high heat conductive 2 and 3 row.

Jim also added a new efficient alternator in place of the original generator, providing additional current even at low engine RPMs, necessary to power the AC electric demanding system. The alternator uses less horsepower to create the same amount of energy as a generator. However, the AC unit requires higher power the car was not originally designed to handle. Lastly, he added a more efficient fan (a five blade fan with a thermostat controls clutch fan). A 1955 T-Bird started with a three fan blades and later four. In 1957 some even opted for a five blades. (Note: Jim also added the AMES water pump free flow adapter, more on that later. The combination of these four/five new components has keep his T-Bird well within the safe operating zone even in the summer heat. Jim decided to use a 160 degree thermostat coupled with the use of a good detergent motor oil 20-50W in the summer.

**Aluminum radiators** use a core and end tanks made from aluminum, which makes them lightweight and highly conductive. They allow for compact, efficient designs and can offer faster heat transfer, which is helpful for both cooling engines more effectively and heating spaces more responsively in a hydronic system. They also resist corrosion well in modern coolant environments. However, they require using the correct coolant additives to prevent galvanic corrosion and you should verify compatibility with your engine or boiler before upgrading to avoid fitting or performance issues.

**2 Row vs 3 Row Radiator**

Now we're talking 2 row vs 3 row is a common decision when shopping for the best aftermarket radiator for a performance car. We already know that a 1 row radiator is off the table, so what is a 3 row radiator and what's the difference between a 2 row vs a 3 row radiator? A 2 row radiator has two layers of water tubes within the core, a 3 row has yet another and a forth another row. While water flow will vary depending on the size of the tubes, a 3 tube radiator will almost always have more of that critical fin to tube contact area that equates to added cooling capacity. However, it is important that 3 or 4 row core can add efficiency to -



the radiator if cool air flow is not reduced. A bad trade-off is selecting a 4 core that uses smaller tubes which can actually reduce the airflow and water flow. Which is essential to its cooling capability. In the "core" comparison diagram below to the left, you can see what is meant by core sizes. This is simple physics; the thicker and denser the overall radiator size the more resistance to cool airflow. Secondly and most importantly, the core tube sizes really do matter. The bigger the better if the real-estate is available to still provide good air flow. Next is the material the radiator is made of, its all about heat transfer dynamics. Lastly, how to best assist the engine to pull air through the radiator. All of these issues must be taken into consideration when selecting the right radiator for your T-Bird. The image for push and or pull axillary fan function is seen below.

Jim also wanted to bring to our attention an often overlooked but important issue within your T-Bird's cooling system. The **vacuum operated heater valve** (this sits on top of the intake manifold in front of the carburetor), replacement from parts vendors are pretty much made in China. Jim experienced two units on his car, the first leaked and the 2nd one had catastrophically failed on the highway. All of the engine coolant was quickly discharged causing a quick overheating issue. If not caught quickly, this component failure can cause major engine failure.

**Note:** There are manual heater valves available that requires the operator to open if the heater is needed but, is much more reliable than the vacuum heater valve replacements.

Continued on middle of Page-08>>>





## February

Name	Date
Karl Martin	02/05
Connie Dager	02/06
George Randall	02/06
John Marchisotto	02/06
Tracey Anderson	02/13
Doug Shearer	02/17
Toni Doles	02/25
Walt Bonneau	02/28

### February's Birth Stone:

Natural Amethyst Crystal Clusters Stone (depicted to the right) is from Uruguay and is in its Raw Geode Quartz - Deep Purple Color cut rock formation. Such a quartz stone in deep purple coloration and 24 inches high would retail for \$700-\$1000.00 dependent on quality of the quartz coloration.



Amethyst's name comes from the Greek word 'amethystos' meaning not intoxicating as in ancient times it was thought that the crystal would prevent you from getting drunk!

In the crystal kingdom, Amethyst is the eye-catching purple or violet regent which is by far the most popular and valuable form of quartz in the world today. Not long ago, amethyst were part of the five cardinal gems considered the most valuable, diamond, emerald, ruby and sapphire being the other four. Amethyst is a **semi precious gemstone** It owes its vibrant color to the presence of iron or manganese (sometimes both) when forming in fissures within igneous rocks from nearly all parts of the globe.



## Name Date

Larry and Ruth Mead

### Welcome to Our Newest ACTC Members!

Roger and Cosette Ingram Glendale, AZ

Sandy and Stuart Roos Surprise, AZ

Larry and Ruth Mead Surprise, AZ

### February's Flower and Interesting Facts:

The violet as with the Amethyst offers a deep purple color often representing royalty as with dark blues. The color purple being associated with royalty, nobility, luxury, power, ambition, think of those kings and nobles wrapped in long purple robes and the religious leaders and buildings draped in purple decorations on their most holy occasions. Such garments are often worn during the Advent and Lent seasons by church leadership. It is historically written that the Jewish Temples used long Purple curtains to encompass the most holy areas. Knowing that purple dye was rare and expensive especially 2,000-2,500 years ago.

Violet has a long history, dating back to ancient Greece around 500 B.C. Greeks and Romans used violets in wine, food and medicines. The plant was associated with fertility, love and was even used in love potions. Violets were also the symbol of the City of Athens. Name "Violet" from the Latin word "viola" and in Greek mythology, violets symbolize the death of Attis, a lover of the goddess Cybele.

Today we find this to be both very confusing and interesting that February the month of lovers and its symbology dating back to circa B.C is a purple flower and stone. We somehow were made to believe that red roses were the symbolic symbol of love and fertility as celebrated on that special Valentine's Day, (Feb.14th — Friday this year).



## An Item of Touring Interest. Provided by ACTC member David Williams

As we continue to celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 in 2026, we find various places members of the ACTC have and might find of interest along this historic Route. Here is such a place, the Jack Rabbit Trading Post located in Joseph City, AZ right between Holbrook and Winslow (where the La Posada Grand Harvey House Hotel), still in operation and still beautiful (See map to the right).

The **Jack Rabbit 66** ([www.jackrabbittradingpost.com](http://www.jackrabbittradingpost.com)) is another one of those places that deserves a stop while touring on 66 in Arizona according to ACTC member David Williams. It is more so a gift shop and a stop point attraction with many unique items being offered while being operated by friendly welcoming owners. Below is a bit of history about the Jack Rabbit Trading Post:

**History:** In 1949 Jim Taylor bought a building in Arizona on Route 66. On his move here, he had a statue of a black rabbit in the back of a convertible car. Along the way people kept saying they liked it and took lots of pictures of it. So when he got here he put it in the ground so people could sit on it and take pictures. That was how the Jack Rabbit Trading Post was born. That rabbit eventually became the model for the "HERE IT IS" sign and the famous mileage signs that you have heard about. Jim Taylor owned the store but leased it much of the time he had it.. Glenn Blansett leased it in 1961 & bought it in 1967. In 1969 his son Phil & daughter-in-law Pat bought the business. Their daughter and son-in-law Cindy & Tony Jaquez, who managed and operated the post, bought the store in 1995. This piece of Route 66 remains after several decades of operation, bringing smiles to so many drivers you travel the 66.



*Continued from Page-06 <<<*

**Don Henderson** demonstrated how he addressed engine cooling concerns especially with an added AC system. Pretty much he and Jim implemented nearly the same new carefully selected components/measures as mentioned above. Although Don added another very important engine requirement. Engine timing must be spot on for your engine to perform. If the engine timing is off (*too advanced or not enough*), the engine will not perform at peak efficiency causing additional engine loading and unnecessary heat generation.

Don also added the AMES Water Flow Adapter. This invention simply defined; reduces the resistance of water flow that was inherent in the original Ford water pump offset design. Several have said; the AMES adapter has improved cooling by a few degrees especially at idle. Another component/implementation measure Don applied, was being sure the actual fan is located/spaced halfway into the shroud/fan guard. This spacing improves air flow draw through the radiator core. He also highly recommends that a five but preferably a six blade fan (clutch type being recommended) to be installed which is proven to provide even better cooling and therefore, should be added. Unlike Jim, Don installed a Pusher fan arrangement opposed to a Puller fan.

**Note:** *Important, be sure vacuum advance on your distributor is working properly to ensure that the timing is per specification.*

**In summary,** If you want your T-Bird to operate cooler especially in hot dry environments with an added AC, system, the following seven components/steps/measures should be considered and should become high priority on your consideration list: 1.) Installing a 2 or 3-core aluminum radiator with large tube water flow and core air flow, 2.) Correct engine timing, 3.) Proper 160 or 180 degree water thermostat (mechanics preference), 4.) Low engine loading adequate alternator, 5.) Thermostatic Pusher fan, (*Puller fan can help as well*), 6.) The correct fan spacing to shroud with the correct distance being 50-60% of fan into the shroud) and, 7.) Fresh clean recently flushed coolant (*Should be able to see water moving in the radiator with cap off to be sure water flow is good and strong. Caution Hot Water!*). Each one of these enhancements reduces the engine generated heat down a few degrees. Being; 10 degrees cooler operating temperature means plenty in keeping your T-Bird in the safe operating zone.



## January, 2026 First New Year's ACTC Meeting

The January 11, 2026 ACTC official meeting held at the American Legion Post #107 on N. Cave Creek Rd in Phoenix was very well attended with over 50 members and 9 of the clubs T-Bird's and one 2019 super nice "Black Label" Lincoln Continental present. The meeting was in session for 2 hours that included a very good breakfast and several board/committee short presentations. See the meeting minutes on Page-10 for more details. It especially appreciated when multiple members chose to drive from places all over Arizona to attend a ACTC meeting. At this meeting such member's drove from Prescott Valley, Payson, Flagstaff and Yuma.

It was nice to see so many faces at the meeting and hearing the various conversations about their T-Birds and many other conversations, as well as welcoming new members. The next official ACTC meeting will be held on Sunday March 8th, also at the American Legion #107. As the format for the February meeting is taking a different approach with a tour of a unique museum and informal luncheon.

***Note: The Next Board Meeting will be called when needed.***



**The ACTC would like to acknowledge a few of our long-term members who have recently passed away:**

- Long time ACTC member **Stewart Wright** has passed away at the age of 92 years young and his wife Mary (who passed away two months ago) were members of ACTC for 40 years. They were active members and will very much missed.

Visitation will be at Messinger's Mortuary 7601 E. Indian School Rd. Scottsdale on Friday January 23rd, 2026 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The **mortuary's phone number is (480) 945-9521**.

- Another ACTC member, **Wade Myers** who passed away in December 13th, 2025 at age of 74. Wade was active in the Model A Restorers Club of America and the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club. In his spare time, he was an avid golfer. Wade lived in Mesa, AZ since his retirement in 2018 from the food industry. He is survived by his wife, Carol Anne Myers, his 4 children and 8 grandchildren, his brother and two sisters.

There will be a celebration of life at our home on February 17th, 2026 from 2:00 - 4:00pm. His ashes will be spread in Spring in the waters between San Diego and San Clemente Island, all are invited.

In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of the Valley, Dobson House in Chandler, AZ  
**Contact Carol Anne Myers Ph: (562)-706-2766 or email: [wcamyers@gmail.com](mailto:wcamyers@gmail.com)**



## ACTC Monthly Minutes

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### ACTC MEETING: SUNDAY, January 11, 2026

**Location:** American Legion Post #107

North Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:00 AM by President Doug Shearer with 51 members in attendance a nice turn-out.

Pledge of Allegiance: Doug Shearer, and he requested a moment of silence for one of our passed away members Wade Myer

**HOSPITALITY:** Yvonne Wagner absent – Bob Michele substituted for her: sang Happy Birthday to January Club members.

**SECRETARY:** no report

**HISTORIAN:** no report

**Public Relations:** Don Henderson mentioned that the Ahwatukee Parade coordinators have asked the ACTC to participate in providing T-Birds. There was no official response provided at the meeting.

**WEB MASTER:** Russ Hanson mentioned that aspects of the Website have been updated for a better user experience.

**TREASURY REPORT:** Chuck Thompson reviewed/outlined the 2025 ACTC funds and stated that the Club actually made a small profit this last year and that the Club has returned to being in the accounting world, "In the Black". Chuck said that in entering the new year (2026), there is over \$5,000 in the checking. Account plus some saving..

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Membership numbers: Judy Thompson reported that there were 3 new member "couples". However, the December to early January, 2026 overall membership numbers remain about the same as in November. Judy mentioned that there is still a small number of Club members who have not paid their dues and she requested that those outstanding members pay the fees for 2026 Membership that are due by January 20, 2026 in order to be included in the 2026 ACTC- Directory..

New Members the Roos provide.....

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE:** Bob Michele announced the 2026 ACTC meetings that will be held at American Legion Post 107 coupled to the planned ACTC annual "Member Picnic" to be hosted at Musselmann's home on April 11th. He also mentioned a special events for the ACTC in February to visit a private collection with a luncheon. Bob, included three of his popular opening jokes.

**Ways and Means:** Walt Bonneau reported on the soon to conclude successful ACTC Club T-shirts sales with new logo. There are only 8 or 9 shirts available. Also mentioned a Newsletter Survey will be sent out in February. Lastly, considering a ACTC club hat offering in the future.

**Sargent at Arms:** January driven T-Bird award went to Chuck & Judy Thompson for having an American flag displayed on their nice T-Bird antenna..

**BREAKFAST SERVED** at 9:30am with plenty of food to enjoy and conversation around the room.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion about special events such as the details about the April 11th picnic for Club Membership participation 2026. Suggestions to be made at Board Meeting following regular meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Information presented about participation in Spring Car Shows. Jim Rodgers talked about the Concours de Elegance show in Scottsdale, Sunday, January 18, 2026 as well as the Glendale Arts and Car Show in January. Other Club members volunteered to organize meeting place for additional shows and times to attend TBA in future emails.

SPLIT THE POT: \$62.00.....to Lynne Bonneau

MEETING ADJOURNED – 10:15 AM

Respectfully Submitted: Myrna Foster, Secretary

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### **REMINDER FOR ALL ACTC/CTCI MEMBERS:**

⇒ **Your ACTC 2026 Dues—Deadline is January 23rd, 2026 (See last months Chatter Newsletter for the Renew Application form or online at [aztbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:aztbirdclub@gmail.com)). Contact Judy Thompson for more details.**

**Note: To ensure that your ACTC renewal and updated information make it into the ACTC 2026 Directory, it is best that you submit your dues payment by January 01, 2026.**



# Future Events

The Following events listed on this page are Moderately Near-term Club Events. Also See Page-12 for events.

**February 28th, 2026: Tri Unit Car - Show**

22034 N. 83rd Ave Peoria, AZ

Contact: Craig Weston @ (623)-512-6315

See Flyer for further Information



**Downtown Glendale Arts & Culture Fest: Makers, Rhythms & Rides**

**Saturday, January 31, 2026**

**Glendale Civic Center Plaza | 10 AM – 5 PM**

*Presented by "Art" State Arizona and Glendale Arts & Culture. Free Admission. Now in its fourth year, this high-energy event celebrates the intersection of classic cars, creative expression, and cultural heritage in downtown Glendale. From lowrider showcases to cirque performances, derby car races and mainstage music, this is more than a car show—it's a full-scale celebration of community design and identity. Cars are able to leave after 3 PM.*

**All Participants Must Pre-Register. Price is \$30.00/Vehicle**  
**Registration Includes:**

- Commemorative Dash Plaque
- (5) Raffle Tickets
- \$5 Discount on Festival T-Shirt
- Morning snacks & coffee
- Artist-designed awards in 20+ categories

DOWNTOWN GLENDALE



**PLEASE NOTE !**

*All dates and events listed above are tentative*



## ACTC Year-2026 MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

**The February 8th meeting has been canceled. The new date has been changed to Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> for a Special Event, as follows:**

The time and format for the day have also been changed. There will be no formal meeting. The times are now as follows: Members arrive between 11:00 am & 11:30 am.

There will be a **buffet lunch** consisting of "Club" sandwiches, salads, dessert, coffee/tea/water. The cost will be **\$18.00 per person**.

**Important Instructions:** At 12:30pm members will assemble in the parking lot to cruise to a private home about 15 minutes away. Hopefully, members will drive their TBirds. The Owners have an **1882 – 1915 Early Transportation Private Collection** consisting of 20 cars, motorcycles, bicycles and automobilia. The owner provides a 75 – 90 minute presentation. There is no charge for this event.

**NOTE 1:** *The owner limits the group to 45 people. The first 45 members who contact me that they wish to attend the tour will be on the list. Be aware that if you sign up and then cancel, you might be causing someone else to miss out. I will also maintain a waiting list in case someone cancels. So register ASAP!*

**NOTE 2:** *The owner is adamant about keeping his collection, location and other details off "Social Media". The location will not be given out prior to February 15<sup>th</sup>, only when we assemble to cruise to the site.*

Any ACTC member who would like to attend the luncheon, but not the tour, are more than welcome. **You have to let Bob Michele know by February 9th.**

Bob Michele at 602 768-5710, email: [rmich1957@gmail.com](mailto:rmich1957@gmail.com)

**Next Official ACTC Club Meeting:** Sunday, March. 8th to be held at the American Legion #107 on N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix— Is Confirmed!



**Saturday March 14th, 2026 — Clarksdale, AZ Car Show**

**9:00AM-2:00PM**

An ACTC Planned Tour/Event to attend:

Registration starts early January, 2026

Estimated Cost: \$25.00, There are still a few spots open but register, ASAP!

**Located 100 miles NW from Central Phoenix near Cottonwood.**

**The ACTC Annual Picnic/Meeting Saturday. April 11th.** The picnic will be hosted by Jack & Nikki Musselmann's at their home in Chandler, AZ. *The picnic will feature a "potluck" lunch; An item provided by each person/couple in attendance. An possibly a special guest speaker. (Final details will be in the March-2026 Newsletter)*



**It's Official! CTCI and VTCI both agreed to hold the next Annual Conference as a Joint Event in September, 2026 in Flagstaff, AZ (More information to be issued in Jan/Feb. 2026). Volunteers from the ACTC will be needed!** More Information will be made available in Feb/Mar, 2026 Timeframe.



**PLEASE NOTE !**

*All dates and events listed above are tentative*

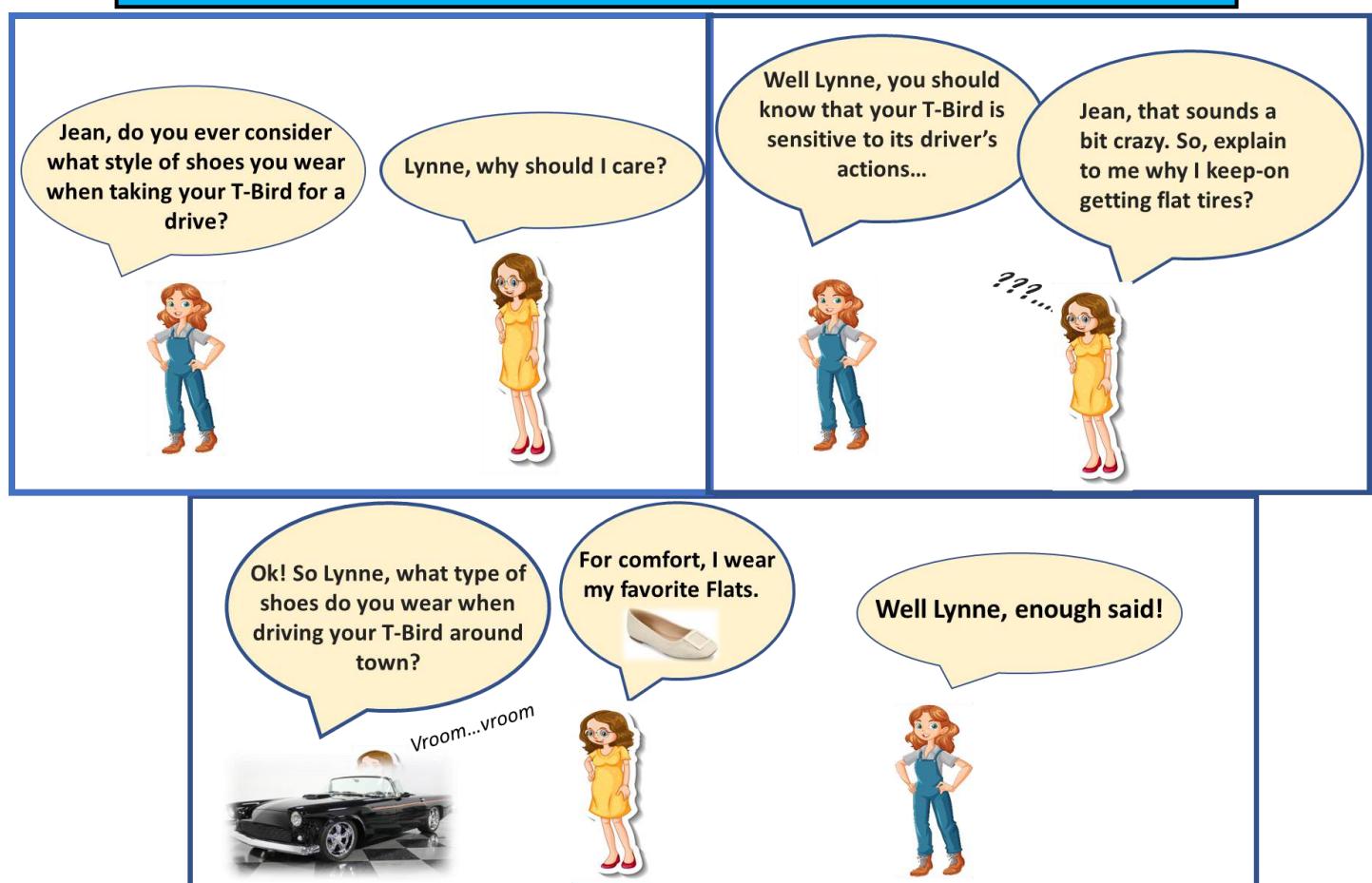


# Other ACTC Information to Know

## ACTC Apparel Still Available for Sale

**Reserve a T-Shirt now... (Remaining ACTC T-shirts will only be offered until March 15th, 2026!)**

The new ACTC women's (**SOLD-OUT**) and men's T-shirts went on sale over 28-weeks ago. Sales have been good with 80% of the these shirts now 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 soon by contacting (Lynne or Walt Bonneau), there are only 15 shirts available. The price is now set at \$20.00 ea. for all of the T-shirts . There will not be a new order placed for at least one-year. Sample T-Shirt pictures are provided below: (*See Page-14 for Walt's contact information*).



## **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 over 100 plus members with 68 Classic and Retro Thunderbirds in 2025. We are part of Southwest Region # 06 of CTCI.

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 2026; To continue the growth of the club and it's membership while working toward establishing more ways for the membership to enjoy being part to the ACTC environment.**

### **ACTC 2025 Committee Members**

Activities	Bob Michele	602-768-5710
Auditor	Tom Wagner	480-440-7508
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	480-440-8362
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



# Other News, Events & Misc.



## **Request for Newsletter Submissions:**

Contact Walt Bonneau: [waltbonneau@gmail.com](mailto: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 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...



## **Movie/TV Series Trivia Answers:**

- 1.) [American Graffiti](#) (1973): 1956 T-Bird, [Farm of the Year](#) (1988): A 1955 T-Bird and [Vegas\\$](#) TV Series (1978-91): a 1957 T-Bird
- 2.) [La Bamba](#) (1987): 1958 Thunderbird Convertible, [Perry Mason](#) TV series (1959): a 1959 Thunderbird, and [Ford versus - Ferrari](#) (2019): a 1960 Thunderbird Convertible.
- 3.) A '73 Thunderbird provided a gritty, bold presence on camera.
- 4.) [Die Another Day](#) (2002): a Retro -2002 Thunderbird is featured with Halle Berry's character, leading to the [2003 007 Retro - Bird Special Edition](#) (only 694 released).

**Bonus Question:** A 1966 Thunderbird convertible on its drive to the Grand Canyon, AZ

## **New Membership Request:**

Contact Judy Thompson

## **New Advertisers Welcomed:**

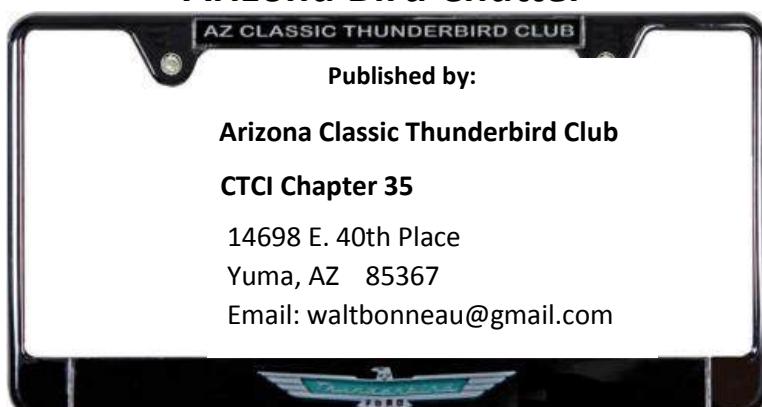
Contact Walt Bonneau

**Remember All meetings are:**



NO SMOKING

## **Arizona Bird Chatter**





## Our ACTC Advertisers and WE Appreciate Your Support

**Note: Newsletter–2026 Advertisement Renewal is due by January, 31st.**

*We would like to continue to acknowledge our eight ACTC Newsletter supporters/advertisers for the 2025/2026 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.*

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