



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 04 — April, 2026 [CTCI-2025/2026 Gold Medallion](#)

April

This months Featured Tbird

My wife and I were looking for a '56 Thunderbird in the Spring of 2019. My parents, who had joined us for pizza, have a '57, '62, '65 and an '03 T-Birds, we had brought a copy of "The Early Bird" with an Ad for a yellow '56 for sale.

I read the Ad and saw that the car was in British Columbia, Canada. My father's response was "well you can't order a new one". So, off we went to B. C. to check it out. We fell in love with it at first sight and as soon as we got home, we tried to make arrangements to have it transported to our home in Iowa. After talking to several car carriers, I decided that we would go get it ourselves. The gentleman we bought it from had all the correct paperwork to bring it in to the U.S. After a 4000 mile roundtrip we had our TBird home.

Our '56 Tbird had undergone a frame off restoration in May of 2000. This past summer we added a black soft top. It has only let me down twice. The first time, a plugged fuel filter and just recently, the generator needed to be rebuilt. After much advice to change to an alternator, I determined that I wanted the car to be completely original and had the generator rebuilt. We are back on the road and the car is running beautifully so we can enjoy the rest of Arizona's Winter and Spring weather. Soon, we will head back to Iowa for our Summer cruise and car show season.



Thanks to Bob Michele for helping us join ACTC.

While we are "snow birding", we have enjoyed the outings with the ACTC members and look forward to more good times. We are also members of CTCI and HCTC, an Iowa Club. We also have at home in Iowa a light blue '04 Retro Bird along with a Mustang and a '59 Ford Skyliner.

Submitted by Doug and Mardy White Ottumwa, IA / Mesa, AZ





From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer
Fellow ACTC T-Birders,

April already and the flowers are starting to bloom and the grass is getting greener by the day. Pretty soon Easter will be at our doorstep, oh and the hot weather too. Oh well we shall persevere.

On February 28th a group of us went to the Florence car show headed up by Jamie and Gary Thompson, Jack and Nikki Musselmann, Bob and Kathy Michele, Yvonne and Tom Wagner, myself and Jamies' brother-in-law John. What a great day we had. Looked like the whole town was there with all their beautiful cars lined up on Main Street. We had a great lunch at the Irish pub down the street and made the rounds to all the vendors.

What happened at the end of the day at the award ceremony came as a total surprise and is mentioned in the newsletter. I'll leave it at that.

As far as events go, ACTC plans on going up to the Clarksdale show on March 14th that should really be fun. We have large group of members that will be driving their birds up 17 to Clarksdale hopefully we all make it up their in one piece. From what I hear there will be roughly 20 or so people for dinner on Friday night and some of us will stay over a second night and leaving on Sunday morning.

As I've stated before, In April we have our picnic at the Musselmann's homestead with guest speaker John Boelts (Farm Bureau), that was coordinated by Walt Bonneau. It should be interesting to hear about "Farm to Table" as it pertains to Arizona produce/farmers and to have a nice pot luck lunch and visit with our membership. Bob Michele sent out the itinerary and Nikki will be coordinating the food choices that members end up choosing.

As I've stated before and will continue to state, 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 years election of board members. I will remind those in attendance at further meetings this year as well.

The Best, Doug

With that said; I offer you this thought:

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"

Albert Einstein



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.**
⇒ **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**





⇒ **Four Post Lift**, including large drip pan, ramps, wheels, and heavy duty jack bridge. Everything works great. Asking \$2,500.

Contact Bob Michele @ (602)-768-5710



⇒ **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



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.



KRISTIN AIROLDI
Service Consultant
541.410.5981

Independent Sales Representative
Free Sharpening Service,
Business Gifts & Personal Sales

mycutcorep.com/kristinairoldi
All 50 States, Canada & Beyond
knivesforlife@yahoo.com



Offers amazing knife sharpening!



Tech Facts

55-57 Fuel Systems and Their Issues

By: Walt Bonneau and contributions from Gil Baumgartner (Gil's Garage)

It is possible that many T-Bird owners have experienced Vapor Lock either on hot days or driving in elevated altitudes. For those who have not be thankful that your fuel delivery system has performed so well.

So what is vapor lock? Simply stated; it is when the fuel flow between fuel tank and carburetor becomes too hot and liquid fuel (Gas) vaporizes. Thereby, starving the carburetor of fuel which in turn stalls the engine.

What increases the chances of vapor lock?

First and foremost, the fuel we purchase today contains 10-15% ethanol (*Note: Don't buy fuel containing over 10% ethanol*), which adds to the possibility of a vapor lock especially in hot weather and during sustained loads while driving over steep terrain. Most vapor locks occur in the engine compartment of our Thunderbirds. They can also occur in the fuel line from the tank if, the fuel line is too close to the tail pipe or exhaust manifold as it passes over the frame. Stainless- Steel fuel lines, although they look great, absorb more heat and can also contribute to a vapor lock, insulate fuel lines in high heat locations.

An electric fuel pump can help to minimize vapor lock when properly installed and I (Gil) stress when properly installed. They should be installed as close to the fuel tank as possible (See Pic below). They should never be installed in the engine compartment for two reasons, distance from the tank and excessive heat from the engine bay. If the electric pump is installed in the engine compartment they act as a heat sink which can cause a vapor lock. Electric fuel pumps are designed to push fuel and they lose efficiency when having to pull fuel from the tank.



Electric Holley Red Fuel Pump 6-8 psi mounted next to fuel tank

The picture on page-05 highlights the benefit of installing or using the factory glass see through fuel inline filter.

Continued on top of Page-05>>>

Historical Facts

Twelve Interesting Facts about the 1955-57 T-bird, Behind the Screen.

By Walt Bonneau

1. Ford Fairlane side chrome was nearly an unfortunate reality until Henry Ford II killed this chrome feature at the last minute. There were a few marketing brochures already printed showing the Tbird with the Fairlane "Check-mark chrome. (See Ad poster images on page-05 Historical Continued).
2. A rare 1950's telescoping steering wheel/column, Ford integrated to assist "Personal Luxury".
3. The 1955 Tbird's front and back bumper was made from the same stamping mold, to save production cost, it worked quite well.
4. Running the exhaust through chrome rings mounted above the bumper gave the TBird a jet fighter look (the vast majority of cars hide the exhaust under the bumper). Unfortunately, this design was technically problematic in that it attributed to exhaust fumes accumulation around the rear of the car and at times into the passenger compartment. This lead to the exhaust change in the 57' model, where the exhaust through the bumper was mounted lower and further back.
5. The 55-57 Tbird's total weight of 2,950-3,100lbs. was a testament to Ford's desire to build more luxury than sport into the car. The all steel stronger T-Bird body opposed to the Corvette's fiberglass body weighed 900 lbs. more. Nevertheless, the 312 CID TBird could hold its own in performance.
6. When nearly all convertible sport cars were equipped with bucket seats. Ford rightfully chose to incorporate a bench-seat, function over performance. So why? Ford was fully aware that in the 1940's and 50's car culture scene the T-Bird would serve as a impressive "dating car", so allowing the driver's "date" to slide over to the middle and sit closer to the driver. This was a big hit with buyers.
7. Ford developed the Y-Block 292 and 312 CID engines specifically for the TBird, knowing the +20 year old Flat-head V8 was not going to impress new T-bird buyers looking at a new car offering within a new market segment. Ford knew more power was needed to carry the +2,950 lbs. with performance.

Continued on top of Page-05>>>



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

The glass filter gives you a helpful indication that fuel is present and flowing. The unit right below the fuel filter in the picture, is a fuel regulator. This may not be necessary if your electric pump stays under or at 6.0 psi. Ford specification states that 5-6 Psi fuel flow is required.

Lastly, we often forget to check our fuel tank gas filler cap. The Thunderbird requires a ventilated fuel system. Therefore, a ventilated fuel cap with anti-surge. Ford also recommends that you replace your fuel cap every 5-6 years as a precaution. If the fuel cap seal dries and becomes hard, the ventilation decreases and the fuel system will struggle to deliver adequate fuel flow. That may lead to a vapor-lock occurrence.



Correction for the March-2026 issue: The FEM was incorrectly stated as being located behind the passengers-side kick panel in the front footwell area when in fact, it is located behind the driver-side kick panel.



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

8. The 1957 T-Bird dashboard was actually designed for the 55' model year. The design was ready to go but, Ford trying to reduce cost, postponed integrating the new dash design.

9. The T-Bird only came in one configuration a convertible (most other models also offered sedans and wagons). The hardtop was consider an accessory and was optional.

10. Ford broke all development records and brought the T-Bird to market in August/September, 1954 after only one-year of total development.

11. Ford used the T-Bird to promote safety features. Ford had a underlying motto: "Its ok to have fun while staying alive".

12. The early 1954 introduction did exactly what Ford marketing had hoped for, it ignited a buying frenzy that yield twenty-three Tbird's sold to every one Corvette and in 1957 while bringing buyers into the show rooms. Ford re-captured the vehicle sales lead, edging out Chevrolet.



A fabric top whisks into place in seconds—to protect you from sudden rainstorms. It's completely out of sight when not in use.

Enchantment unlimited . . . the new Ford THUNDERBIRD

A distinguished kind of personal car that combines high performance and high style for a whole new world of driving fun.



Those long, low lines . . . the sweeping, contoured windshield . . . say distinction in every detail.

THE Thunderbird's long, low, thoroughbred lines say "action"! And they speak the truth.

A toe-touch on the gas pedal means *no waiting*. There's breath-taking Trigger-Torque performance with the new Thunderbird Special V-8 that's specially mated with transmission and rear axle.

With a low center of gravity (from cowl to ground is just over three feet) and Ford's Ball-Joint Front Suspension, the Thunderbird corners as if on rails.

The fun doesn't stop here, for the Thunderbird is *long* on convenience.

Two tops are available. There's a removable glass-fibre hard top . . . and a smart convertible fabric top. Windows *roll up*. The extra-wide foam-rubber-cushioned seat moves forward or back, up or down, at the touch of a button. The baggage compartment is ample. There's a telescoping steering wheel. And you can have power steering, power brakes, and power windows . . . Fordomatic or Overdrive.

Why not call on your Ford Dealer today and get complete details on this new and distinctive personal car? First deliveries of the thrilling Thunderbird are now being made.



The removable, glass-fibre hard top is easy to handle . . . locks into place to give you winter-long comfort.

Classic Thunderbird Movie/TV & Other Trivia

1. What Ford Executive suggested and pushed Ford management to add a back seat to the 1958 Thunderbird?
2. Ford expected the addition of a back seat in the 1958 model "Square Bird" would sell 100,000 units. So how many actually sold in 1958?
3. What three primary design elements did the 1958-60 Square Bird carry over from the 1957 Baby Bird styling?
4. Why did Ford drop the Y-Block engine after only three years in the T-Bird with the 1958 Square T-Bird?

Answer on Page-15>>>





April

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Judy Wolkins	04/03
Hannah Falkenberry	04/06
Sherry Randall	04/09
Bill Dodd	04/11
Jack Musselmann	04/13
Faerber Cathie	04/18
Kathy Michele	04/21
Jamie Thompson	04/27

MONTH'S TOPIC SECTION:

In September, 1956 and again during March—April of 1957 Ford advertised the Thunderbird with the three offered engine configurations, all based on the 312 CID Y-Block. These configurations included: 245 HP with a single 4 barrel carburetor, a 275 HP with dual 4 -barrels and the 300-310 HP—Turbo Charged.

The 60 second television commercial took three Thunderbirds down a US Air Force Base Landing Strip (Nellis) in Las Vegas, NV. Where the famous Thunderbird precision demonstration fighter jet team was stationed. In the commercial Ford makes reference to the Thunderbird Jets (F100's) being powered by a Ford Jet engine (Pratt Whitney -Model J57) made by Ford's Aircraft Division. Take note that the jet engine was code named the J-57, now there is a bit of marketing prowess or was it luck? As they mention this fact, three 1957 Thunderbird cars are racing down the



runway. The cars one-by-one are aligned to the F100 jets -

Continued bottom right this page >>>



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chuck and Judy Thompson	04/02
Karl and Dulcie Martin	04/05
Jim Cook/ Danny Kim	04/28

Welcome to Our Newest ACTC Members!

Jack and Elaine Jedick Scottsdale, AZ

Continued from the Previous page <<

highlighting their design features taken from the F100's. The commercial was a true success in showing the 57's power/performance.



ACTC March 8th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- ◆ The meeting was called to order at 9:02am and concluded at 10:45am. At the **American Legion Hall** off of Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ (Post #107). There was a good turn-out with 40 persons in attendance.
 - ◆ **President** Doug Shearer opened the meeting and provided the opening agenda with supporting comments. Doug first off, lead in the members reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - ◆ **Hospitality:** Yvonne Secretary: Yvonne Wagner – Acknowledged the March, 2026 members birthdays and all sang Happy Birthday. Yvonne asked anyone if they had something good to mention this last week or two. Five members mention up lifting events. This was followed by a request for cards and prayers to be sent out for those who needed a bit of support. She introduced three new couples in attendance from the VTCL who also offered there short T-Bird Stories.
 - ◆ **Member-At-Large:** Bob Michele told one of his best joke ever. Members reminded of the upcoming March 25th, Romeo Lunch. Additional emails will be sent for all up-coming events.
 - ◆ **Treasurer:** Chuck Thompson updated the up coming Clarkdale ACTC Tour, Dinner and Car Show. He also presented the Treasury report informing the membership that the Club was again doing well with over \$17K in funds. He gave a brief history about the official ACTC- Arizona Registered Bowa Ties and the desire to locate any of these not being used by the members. Since, they are a limited production item with the original artist now deceased. So, that they may be made available for other members to purchase and wear.
 - ◆ **Public Relations:** Don Henderson – Mentioned the Ahwatukee 2026 Easter Parade request to have ACTC participate. He mentioned that there was little desire to support the Parada based on too many challenges experienced in the past with the parade organizers.
 - ◆ **Website:** Russ Hanson mentioned that the Website is getting more hits including from non-members. He also mentioned the Blog that is often full of various car related events. He tries to capture the stand-out events and send them to the Newsletter editor for inclusion. Lastly, he gave a quick introduction to how best to access/extract information within the new improved website.
 - ◆ **Membership:** Judy Thompson said; we now have 113 members, including two new members for April (Jack and Elaine Jedick). There are 65 House Holds, Tbirds in the club: 9-'55s, 16-'56s, 33-57s and 13-Retro Birds. She mentioned that the registration forms needed to be shown more often with a link in the Newsletter....
 - ◆ **Editor (Ways and Means):** Walt Bonneau provided the Newsletter-2026 Survey Results, as follows: In brief +95% found the newsletter and it page count favorable, Majority wanted even more Technical focus, majority did not see the value in the Birthstone and Flower background articles (*These will be dropped*), +98% really liked the cover-page Featured Members Car. A few strong requests were made for a more frequent CTCL and ACTC membership new member application forms be posted. The survey was returned by only 45% of the membership short of the desired 60% hoped for by Walt and Bob. Walt let the membership know that this was unacceptable. Walt and Lynne thanked those who took the time to provide their feedback, it was helpful
- Walt mentioned that the ACTC 2025/2026 T-Shirt sales were coming to an end after April 15th. He also mentioned that the Newsletter Ad/Supporter sales & revenue had hit a new high with a list of excellent vendors requesting that our membership support their products.
- ◆ **Historian:** Duane Foster – No report!
 - ◆ Nicki Musselmann provided the April 11th picnic potluck Infor and sign-up for food dishes to bring.
 - ◆ **Split-Pot** was won by Tom & Yvonne Wagner.
 - ◆ **Inspector General:** Steve Kovacic selected the meeting's driven best in show T-Bird; the Blue Retro-Bird owned by Jack and Elaine Jedick.

Secretary: Myrna Foster provided the Minutes



March 8th ACTC Meeting Event

This ACTC meeting was attended by 40 persons including two new members and members from the VTCI Club including their Southwest Region's Co-Directors Roger and Cosette Ingram. It was a pleasure having them in attendance as the two organizations work toward planning future joint events.

There was an abundance of new information about the Clubs and the many events in the works and or those already scheduled. This meeting was complimented by another excellent breakfast put-on by the staff at the American Legion Hall Post #107. (See the Meeting Minutes for meeting details on Page-08). A nice touch was the request made by Yvonne Wagner for those members needing special request and support.

What was really cool was the 13, T-Birds driven to the meeting making for a very colorful parking lot. It was said; "The parking lot actually looked like a roll of different candy, as it was so colorful". (See pictures below).

As announced during the meeting: At least 10 of the T-Birds and 20 members will be making their way to Clarkdale, AZ on March 13-15th for an Historic Downtown Car-Show setting and the home town of one of our members, David Williams. This should be a memorable adventure for these T-Birds as they tour 110 miles climbing the I-17 freeway north. Many will be staying over night at the Taawaki Inn and enjoying a dinner on Friday night.

The town leaders and organizers of the Clarkdale car show have worked hard to pull together a well organized event to host 150 cars (At full capacity,). The ACTC's T-Bird's will represent 7% of the total cars being displayed. We want to thank: Walt Bonneau , Doug Shearer, Judy Thompson and especially Chuck Thompson and David Williams for doing so much leg work in order to make this event happen for the ACTC.

Clarkdale's population is 5,100 persons and is expecting much of their population and various visitors to attend. Post event coverage will be in the May-2026 Newsletter.



HIGHLIGHTED SPECIAL EVENTS

The Following events listed on this page are **Moderately Near-term Events**. Also See Page-11 for more events.

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

9:00AM-2:00PM

An ACTC's Planned Tour/Event to attend:

Registration starts early January, 2026 (MAYBE CLOSED DUE TO ABUNDENT PARCIPATION)

CONTACT: Chuck Thompson For Additional Details including the Dinner, Tour and Show Parking

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

Located approximately 100 miles NW from Central Phoenix near Cottonwood.



Route 66 100th Anniversary Fun Run May 1 & 2, 2026

REGISTRATION FOR THE FUN RUN



You can attend the actual Fun Run from Seligman to Kingman, and Fun Run car show in Kingman, for free. You can drive the Route 66 runs and then park on an adjoining street to the car show and walk around the show and view the cars for free" and could even drive your family car if your collector car will not make the trip. But if you want your car in the car show, you will need to enter your car. To enter your car in the Saturday Kingman show-, call the gift shop number 928-753-5001. and you will need to pay the car show fee of \$120 with your credit card. This includes a shirt and gift bag. You will also need to tell them if you want your car judged for awards. The awards will be on the Sunday, May 3, 2026, in Kingman, after check out of our hotels.

(Next year the car show will again be the regular \$66 fee.)

BOOKING A HOTEL ROOM (Check with Mr. Thurston for any availability, see below.)

You are free to stay at any hotel where you desire and can find a room. but I have booked a block of 8 rooms in Williams for Friday, May 1, 2026, and 8 rooms in Kingman for Saturday, May 2, 2026.

For the Williams rooms on Friday, May 1, 2026: call the Travel Lodge. 430 E. Route 66, Williams. AZ. (928) 753-5001, and I booked 4 king bedrooms at \$120, and 4 double queen bedrooms at \$ 135 under Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club. Reserve your room with your credit card and pay when you arrive, and these are able to be cancelled on or before April 01, 2026 but, **you need to save them now.**

For Kingman rooms on Saturday, May 02, 2026: Call the Arizona Inn, 411 W. Beale Street. Kingman. AZ, (928) 753-5521. I booked 4 king bedrooms at \$105. and 4 double queen bedrooms at \$120 under Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club. Reserve your rooms with your credit card and pay when you arrive, and your rooms are able to be cancelled 2 days in advance, but you need to save them now.

SO: (1) Book your rooms in the next 10 days. (2) If you book now and we run out of rooms, I can probably get more rooms if we act fast, and can modify the types of rooms, e.g.- 6 kings and 2 double queens.

EMAIL Me at: ThurstonFamil@yahoo.com.

SO, I CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL PLANNING TO ATTEND.

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative



ACTC Year-2026 MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

Route 66 Fun-Run (See Page 08) for more details)

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. A special guest speaker Mr. John Boelts (President of the AZ Farm Bureau), will talk about Farm to Table issues . (Final details will be sent out In a special ACTC email to the membership, shortly).*



Last ACTC Meeting before the Summer Break: (Also National Thunderbird Day) Sunday, May 17th to be held at the American Legion #107 on N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix
— Details to follow but a car tour is in the works..

In Memory of Sondra (Sandy) Trasente a long time ACTC member has passed away on 2/11/26. A celebration of life was scheduled on February 28th. The best to the family from the ACTC membership.



REMINDER FOR ALL ACTC/CTCI MEMBERS:

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

Note: The Membership directory for 2026 has now been published. Please ask Judy or Chuck Thompson for a copy if you have not already received one. The ACTC Application Form Link: WWW.AZclassichunderbirds.org

We all want to **Thank Judy Thompson** for organizing and pulling together the 2026 ACTC Members Directory. This is a time consuming and dynamic set of tasks in order to make this directory as correct and up to date as possible. She did a fine job and many will use this book to stay in touch.

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 April, 2026). Volunteers from the ACTC will be needed! **VTC and ACTC are still working out details.**



PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative



Other ACTC Information to Know

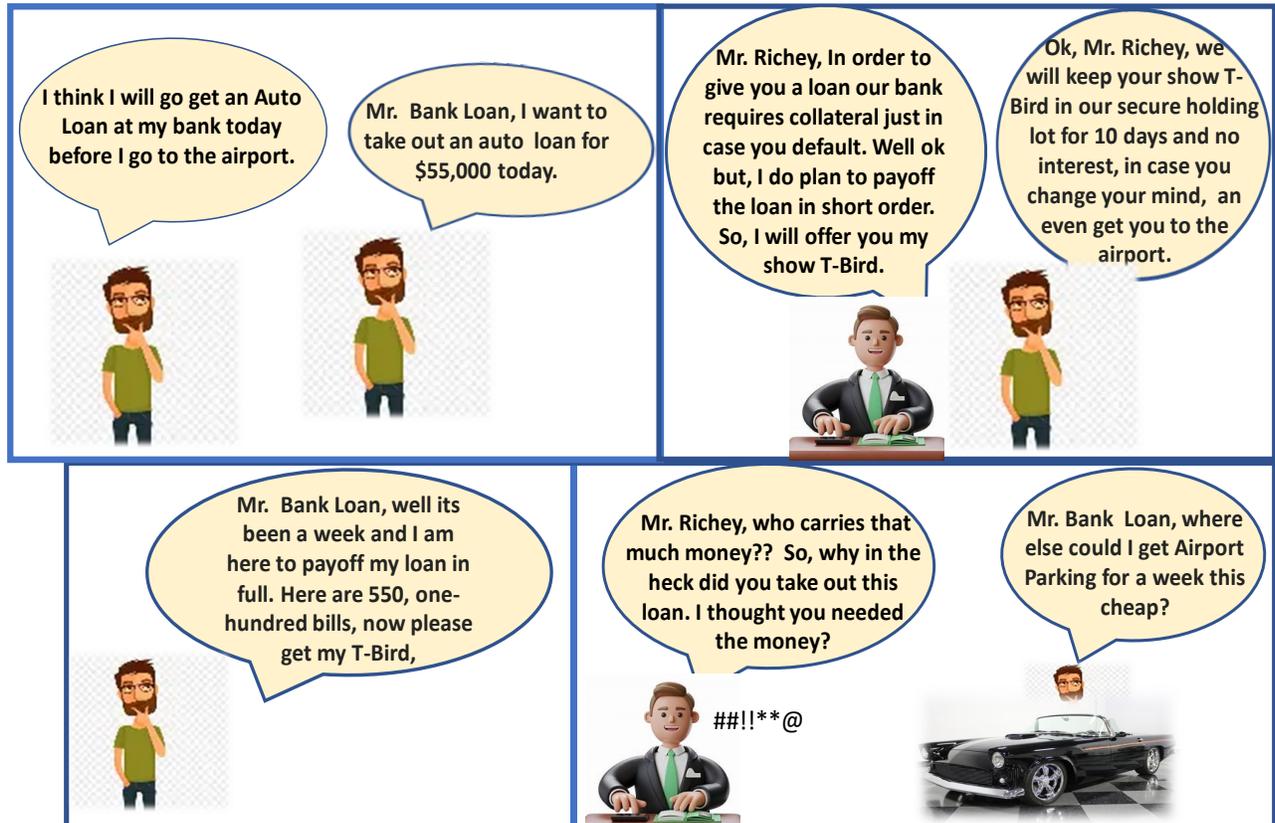
ACTC Apparel Still Available for Sale

Reserve a T-Shirt now... (Remaining ACTC T-shirts will only be offered until March 25th, 2026!) **LAST CHANCE !!!**

The new **ACTC women's (SOLD-OUT) and men's T-shirts nearly Sold-out** that went on sale over 40-weeks ago. Sales have been good with 96% 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 purchase a T-Shirt ASAP by contacting (Lynne or Walt Bonneau), there are **now only 2 shirts left**. The price is now set at \$20.00 ea. for all of the remaining T-shirts. There will not be a new order placed for at least one-year. Sample T-Shirt pictures are provided below: *(See Page-13 for Walt's contact information).*



On the lighter-side...



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.

Intention Blank Page



Other News, Events & Misc.



Request for Newsletter Submissions:

Contact Walt Bonneau: waltbonneau@gmail.com

All ACTC and CTCL 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.



Movie/TV Series Trivia Answers:

- 1.) Robert McNamara, who would shortly succeed Crusoe (Original T-Bird supporter) at Ford Division. The bean counters took a dim view of low or unprofitable products no matter how much promotional value they might have offered (Short sided). Even as the Thunderbird went on sale in December 1954, there was already talk of killing it within the management ranks.
- 2.) In 1958, 37,892 units or 1.78 times the 1957 model sold. Square Birds did not reach 100,000 units combined until the end of 2nd model year 1959. Never did the Square Bird's reach annual sales of 100,000 units. However, each years sales did increase.
- 3.) Stylist small rear fender tail fins, hood air scoop, rear wheel shirts.
- 4.) Ford dropped the Y-block engine for its passenger cars in 1958 in favor of the new FE Big Block Series . Because, the Y-Block design had reached its maximum displacement capacity of 352 CID. The Y-Block engine was not capable of supporting the much heavier (+900 lbs.) Square Bird over the 1957 model. While maintaining acceptable performance.

New Membership Request;

Contact Judy Thompson

New Advertisers Welcomed;

Contact Walt Bonneau

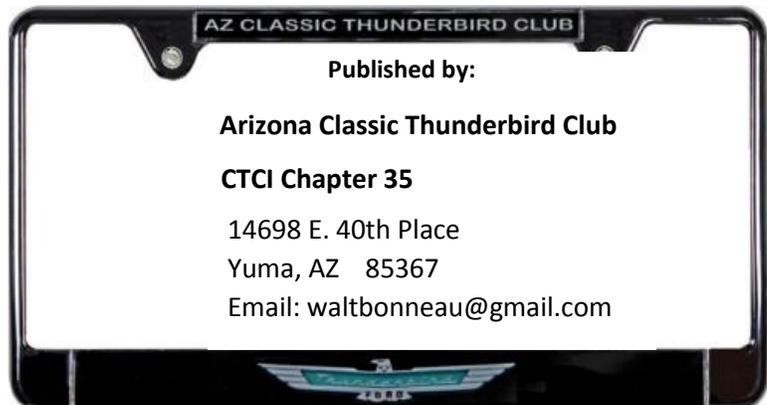
Remember All meetings are:



NO SMOKING



Arizona Bird Chatter



AZ CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Published by:

Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club

CTCI Chapter 35

14698 E. 40th Place

Yuma, AZ 85367

Email: waltbonneau@gmail.com





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.

Concours Parts & ACCESSORIES
YOUR CLASSIC FORD PARTS SOURCE FOR:
 1955-1966 Thunderbird • 1949-1959 'Big Ford' Car
 • 1960-1972 Galaxie • 1962-1972 Fairlane
 • 1968-1971 Torino • 1948-1972 Ford Truck
 • 1966-1977 Bronco • 1964 1/2-1973 Mustang

WWW.CONCOURSPTS.COM

E-MAIL ADDRESS: concoursparts@concoursparts.com Local: **(775)882-5100**
 Toll-free: **(800)722-0009**

Classic Auto Electric
 Specializing in Classic Car Clock and Radio Repair

25 years of experience servicing all Ford Crown Vics & Thunderbird clocks and Town & Country radios

Contact Info:
 Joe Dickhudt
 Email: Joe@classicautoelectric.com
 401 N. Carrie St.
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Ph# 620-241-6927
 For addition info:
www.classicautoelectric.com

Wisefit | WEALTH MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE SOLUTIONS | **Northwestern Mutual**
 Wealth Management Company

Wealth Management Advisor
Chantel Bonneau Stewart
 CFP®, CLU®, ChFC®, REBC®, WMCP®, RICP®
 Founder & Wealth Management Advisor

Visit Us Online!


Lets Connect:
 Email: chantel.bonneau@nm.com
 Ph: (619)-230-8033

wisefitwealth.com

Arizona Farm Bureau
 Auto Insurance and Financial Services

We have excellent coverage and competitive rates for:
 Homes, Autos including RV's, Motorcycles, even Classic Cars

Questions about Our Insurance and Financial Needs Services? Your Arizona Office Contact:

Liz Laster — Farm Bureau Agent

7175 E. 31st Place, Suite-B
 Yuma, AZ 85365
 Office: (928)-248-5038, Cell: (928) 210-0401
 Email: liz.laster@fbfs.com
www.lizlaster.com

Jorge Sommerer I-CAR & ASE
 Trained & Certified
SLATER'S GARAGE
 2127 W. Melinda
 Phoenix, AZ
 623 330 3017

Classic & Custom Cars
Award winning paint work

J.R. Enterprises

Landscape Maintenance
Brent Rodgers
 4th Generation

5724 129th Ave.
 Litchfield, AZ 85340

623-293-1293
 email: iamjr1@cox.net

CUTCO
 The World's Finest Cutlery

NEW!
KRISTIN AIROLDI
 Service Consultant
 541.410.5981

Independent Sales Representative
 Free Sharpening Service,
 Business Gifts & Personal Sales
mycutcorep.com/kristinairoldi
 All 50 States, Canada & Beyond
knivesforlife@yahoo.com




See the Back Page for Retro T-Bird Parts







Reliable Auto Parts

*Your Go-To Retro 2002-2005 T-Bird
Parts Supplier*



We ship through-out the USA

Our Location:

2500 E. Monroe St.

Yuma, AZ 85365

Phone: (928)-783-7803

Web Site: reliableautoparts.com



Scan me!

We carry some of the most requested OEM parts for our Retro T-Birds to restore or replace, returning your T-Bird to a nice ride!

- OEM Engines
- Interior and Trim
- Electronic Modules(FEM, REM)& Lamps
- Convertible and Hard Tops
- Suspension Parts & Rims
- Body Parts

