



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 05 — May, 2026

CTCI-2025 Gold Medallion Winner

This months Featured Tbird

May

My husband Pat Lynch honorably discharged from the Navy in Sept. 1966 and he quickly found and purchased a 1957 T-Bird. We met in a summer class (US History), at Cerritos JC in Norwalk, CA. When we walked out to the parking lot after class, he showed me his car. I told him it was cute and he asked me "what is it?" He thought I would be impressed but found out I definitely wasn't after him for his car!

Our dating was spent in Belmont Shore, CA., stripping paint off the T-Bird then spraying primer on the car. Not the most romantic, but it worked for us. We hit it off and dated for a while, married April 5, 1968. Driving off from the church in that T-Bird. After the wedding we lived in Belmont Shore and Pat worked at the Long Beach Shipyard. He got a job in 1969, transferring to Phoenix, AZ to work at the Bureau of Reclamation, later called the Department of Energy. Our first son John was born May 5, 1970. We joined the ACTC in 1971 and the Club chapter had just started, making us one of the first members. A second son (Mike) was born Feb. 4, 1972 followed by our daughter (Shannon), on Aug. 25, 1974 and lastly daughter (Bonnie Joy) born May 30, 1978. At that point Pat's mother passed away (Pat's Grandmother moved in to our house), and we needed to 100% focus on our growing family, so, we paused on the ACTC membership. We rejoined the ACTC in 1989. Pat continued to work on the T-Bird's engine painting it black. Pat always considered the T-Bird a "driver". We enjoyed driving to ACTC events. In 1999 Bonnie Joy was married on April 24th and used the T-Bird to drive away from her wedding; a little family Deja Vu.

Pat had purchased the car with a white hardtop, adding a tan convertible soft top, purchasing the frame from Ken Falkenberry in April, 2000. The soft top cost more than the original car purchase price. In 2013 he had Don Henderson and his son Wes replace the original 312 CID engine with a 1990 GT 5.0L (302 CID) fuel injected engine and AOD transmission. That new engine really gave the car new found power. Next, Pat was off looking for a new color by visiting car shows, Etc. He finally settled for a deep metallic green, as it stands today. He really loved that T-Bird (54 years of ownership). We had been married 52 years when Pat passed away on July 4, 2020. I still own and drive the T-Bird.

The ACTC has been a blessing in our lives. Being members has given us so many great memories. Driving Route 66, Cars shows to Yuma, Lake Havasu, Pine Top, Prescott and Flagstaff to name a few.

By: Owner Beverly Lynch



1957 T-Bird Customized with a legendary Ford 302 CID V8





From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer

So Easter and Passover came and went. I hope everyone had a great time celebrating with family and friends.

On April 11th our club had a very nice Annual ACTC picnic at the Musselmann's home who hosted the event. I want to extend a big thank you to them both. Nikki for putting together the pot luck meal listing/organization and to Jack for gathering the tables and chairs and the beverages and to the cleanup crew. Good job to all who contributed. Members brought their pot luck meals for all to enjoy. I might add, there were many excellent recipes shared. What nice weather and overall day, we had over 40 people gather for that good food and great conversation, while enjoying each other's company along with much laughter. Again, a very nice annual event. We also had a nice/informative guest speaker (John Boelts), President of Arizona Farm Bureau that spoke about Arizona's produce from farm-to-table. Very interesting/informative. Many good questions followed. Good job to Walt for setting that up.

Occurring on May 1st and 2nd, the event we all have been anticipating this spring was the Route 66 fun run and car show from Seligman to Kingman celebrating the 100th anniversary of the iconic and storied roadway from Chicago to L.A. "The original "highway at the time that carried thousands of people young and old as well as, families traveling for the summer with the kids, stopping at the many attractions this road had offered to entertain them on their way to their destinations. I want to thank Gregg Thurston for volunteering his time and effort in putting this together. Great job! What a wonderful time seeing the many types of cars old and newer traveling this route, not to mention all the other activities that were planned by others along the entire route. Incredible!! Happy Anniversary Route 66. — Our final ACTC meeting before the summer break will occur May 17th, also Thunderbird Appreciation Day. We will have an abbreviated meeting and luncheon at the American Legion on N. Cave Creek Rd. in Phoenix. More details to follow on a car tour. Members from VTCI & CTCI drive to the Phoenix Police Museum, looking forward to that. As I've stated multiple times before: We need volunteers to help form committees, organize events. Interested? Call either myself or Bob. I also request that a member (s) or volunteer to set up a nominating committee for next years election of board members. I will remind those in attendance our meetings rest of this year. Remember to sign up for the CTCI Convention! said; with this letter, I offer you this thought:

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor" —Vince Lombardi—



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**



⇒ **1956/57 12.8Vdc original style replacement front high/low beam headlights made by Sylvania.** These headlamps are used but, in near new condition. They are the standard factory style replacement type that offers 700-750 lumens of brightness. New ones sell for \$21.00 ea. These are priced at **\$12.00 for the pair.**
Contact Walt Bonneau@ (858)-699-2883 or waltbonneau@gmail.com.



⇒ **1956 Thunderbird project car, complete with some new parts, engine does need to be rebuilt.**

Asking \$7,500. Peoria, AZ. Call Mike Wood Ph: 602-568-8140



See More on Next Page>>>





⇒ **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**



SOLD!

⇒ **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



⇒ **NAPA Brand Portable Tool Kit**, in like new condition. Asking \$100.00. Interested, Contact:

Bob Michele @ 602-768-5710

Email: rmich1957@gmail.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.



For Sale, Thousands of 2002-5 Retro Tbird parts now available at **Reliable Auto Parts** located in Yuma, AZ.

(See last page for advertisement)



Tech Facts

Electrical Core 57s' Systems Explored

By: Walt Bonneau and Don Henderson

It is not uncommon for T-Bird owners to try and steer clear of electrical issues that may arise. This article will make an attempt to explain the electrical workings and key components of the 57' T-Bird. Yes, the 56 T-Birds are notably different but, do share some commonality. In example; the 55' was 6 volt and 56 & 57 are 12 volts.

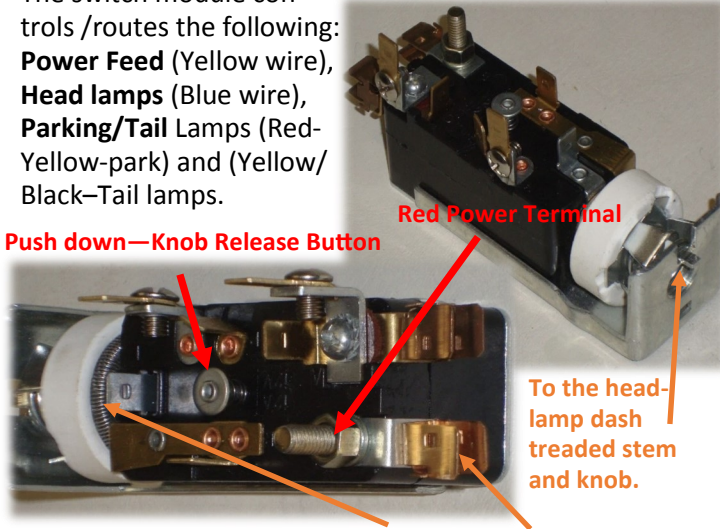
Note: It is likely that your car's electrical system has not been significantly touched for some 40-70 years, especially if it was not fully restored. Therefore, wiring might have become very brittle with increased resistivity, not a good problem to have.

The first thing to understand: As for car electrical systems in general, the 57's system is not terribly difficult to understand or overly complicated. Most cars after 1958 contained a "true wiring harness" that bundled nearly all of the wire connection points into one large spider like harness which in turn distributed electrical connections/signals to each component. Well the 55-57 T-Birds for the most part used a point-to-point wiring approach. Whereby, current limiting fuses were inline with the wire leads to many of the user features (fan, seats, Etc.).

There are no computer modules or the like in any of the 55-57's. There is however, an interesting point of control for many of the electrical features. This is referred to as the "Headlight Switch/Module" (See images below):

The switch module controls /routes the following:
Power Feed (Yellow wire),
Head lamps (Blue wire),
Parking/Tail Lamps (Red-Yellow-park) and (Yellow/Black-Tail lamps).

Push down—Knob Release Button



To the head-lamp dash treaded stem and knob.

Headlight Switch, 7-Connections, Rheostat & 7.5A Fuse Holder

In addition, this switch module controls the **Dome/Dash lamp** (Orange-Green), **Instrument Cluster** (Light Blue/Red), **Dash lamp Dimmer** via integrated rheostat (after market radios are often PWR connected here, as well). This switch module is a common point of failure after 10-15 years of time/use. The rheostat and internal contacts often become oxidized or just worn out causing multiple accessory failures.

Continued on top of Page-07>>>

Historical Facts

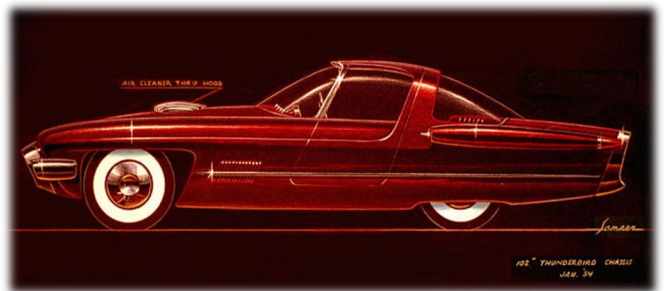
Behind the Scenes of Ford's Baby-Bird's Origin, Styling & /Name

There have been a few versions published about just how the Ford executive team came up with/choose the name Thunderbird and agreed upon it for their new Ford Personal Luxury Sports car, introduced in late 1954. So, the truth be; it was a difficult and convoluted process. See Ford management especially president Henry Ford II who wanted the new car to carry a strong progressive name messaging that matched the car's progressive styling and forward thinking designs.

See Ford was on a mission to create automotive styling that would change their lineup from being called "boring" or So/so. The new Thunderbird's styling needed Henry Ford II's approval for nearly every aspect of this new car model. Ford needed to once again bring customers into their dealer show rooms and try to dethrone GM's 20 year dominance (Which they finally did in 1957). The picture directly below is one of the those Thunderbird prototypes. Look carefully at the styling elements that later were integrated into some of the



1950's Early Thunderbird Prototype



various Thunderbird models, especially the 61-63 cars. Ford had wasted no time in thinking forward beyond the 55-57 models with new prototype concept cars for the later Thunderbirds, already on the table. The above picture is from January, 1954 "102" Chassis Thunderbird, John Samsen's D-523, (Deansgarage.com). It is obvious that at that time, it was much about styling and two-seater design concepts.

Continued on top of Page-05>>>



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

It is Interesting how the 58-60' model Thunderbird deviated from its predecessor model and was also very different from early prototype designs, (*The four seater requirement surely impacted previous intended design styling*). However, much of the original Thunderbird prototype styling did carry forward into the Fairlane and later models such as, the Galaxie models. Yes, the 1958-60 model did adopt the 57' T-Bird tail fins. The small tail fins did not disappear until 1962 on the Galaxies. However, the new 64 1/2 and 65' Mustang brought back very small subdued rear fender fins.

Back to the name choice; During early 1953-54 Ford really struggled with a choice of name for this new personal luxury sports car. Ford created a contest whereby, the winner would get an expensive suit (\$250.00). There was at least 4-5 thousand names put on the table with most being dismissed quickly. The last five debatable contenders were Apache (GM applied), Fairlane and the Falcon name (owned by Chrysler), Eagle and Thunderbolt. Finally, the submission/proposal of the name Thunderbird by one of Ford's young stylist (Alden "Gib" Giberson) in late 53', who first saw the name on his souvenir coffee mug from the southwest, getting management/marketing excited and taking a liking to this mystical name. A few months later he was awarded a suit with two pairs of pants that he choose. As said often by the late radio personality Paul Harvey "And that's the rest of the story", well here is the rest of the story:

A country club located in Rancho Mirage, CA (formally known (1924-50's) as the El Rancho Mirage" development, (*Rancho Mirage incorporated in 1973, as a city*). Thunderbird Country Club was established in 1951 and quickly became the number-one address in the Coachella Desert Valley for the wealthy and who's who list. If you desired to enjoy those beautiful winter days playing tennis, golf and sun bathing in the pool area only to settle in for an excellent breakfast, lunch or dinner in a beautiful social setting, at a price, this was the place. In example, President Eisenhower was a member, as was Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball along with Bing Crosby, etc.



Circa-2026— the 75th Anniversary of the Club (Main Entrance and above the Cove Entrance)

As written in the Summary statement (*center to lower left of page*), Ford Executive Chairman Ernest Breech and member of the Thunderbird Club submitted the name Thunderbird to the country club's management asking permission from the club to use the name for the new car. Which, they granted to Ford in October, 1955. It is a bit interesting that Ford had already started using the name. I can only gather that Ford wanted to "cross the T's and dot the I's" before they got in hot water over ownership of the name.

The Ryders Cup Golf Tournament of 1955 was awarded to the Thunderbird Club, a very rare and special award for such a young golf course.

For the record, if you want to join this Club, be prepared to find a member who will first support and sponsor you and be ready to get your check book out for steep annual membership fees.

Summary statement (below) written by Ford Motor Company with the Thunderbird Club providing solid supporting documentation of the factual history of the Thunderbirds name origins.
(See Page-04, Johnny Dawson with a prototype in Dearborn, MI)

THE FORD THUNDERBIRD

Besides the motorized golf cart, Thunderbird also has a sentimental and proprietary interest in another vehicle. Ernest Breech, a Thunderbird Member, was chairman of Ford Motor Company. He was deeply involved in the creation of a new sports car to compete with the recently released Chevrolet Corvette. In 1954, Breech asked the Club permission to name the new model with its sleek and sporty design after the Club. Permission was granted. And in October 1955 the first Ford Thunderbird rolled off the assembly line and was presented to Johnny and Velma Dawson the Clubs first President and First Lady.

The first Ford Thunderbird came off the assembly line with 4,000 orders already in hand - eventually 16,000 1955 Ford Thunderbirds were sold. Price: \$2,695 for the coupe and another \$100 for the convertible. The T-Bird came in five colors: white, blue, black, yellow and red with vinyl interiors to match. The very first Thunderbird was sent to the Club.

Johnny had been involved in some of the prototype design of the Car. Seen in this rare and early photo of Johnny in Dearborn Michigan sitting in the prototype Ford Thunderbird, this version was indicative of the space race at the time. The prototype was later adapted into the sleek shape and lines of the Ford Thunderbird we still recognize today.

Ford Motor Company

Continued on Page-06>>>



Continued from Page-05<< — (Article contributions: Achieves from Rancho Mirage Thunderbird Club, Ford Motor Company, Google AI and Wikipedia Search engines accompanied by additional research/facts checking by Walt Bonneau)

If you ever get the invite to see the facilities, you might see the 1st Club President Johnny Dawson with his wife “First Lady” Velma (pictured below), with their newly acquired first assembly line numbered 1955 White T-Bird taken on the newly awarded 1955 Ryder’s Cup Tournament Golf Course. These pictures exist at the club, even today.



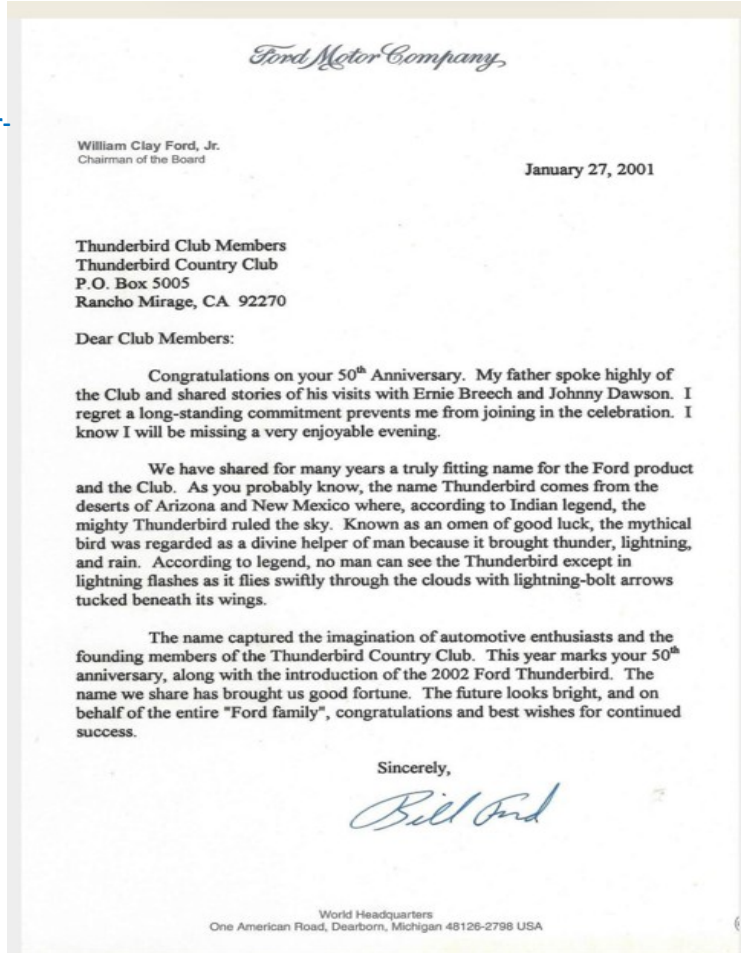
Velma and Johnny Dawson received the 1st Ford Thunderbird off the assembly line in 1954, @Thunderbird Club

The Country Club in 2001 celebrated it’s 50th Anniversary which was also coordinated with the introduction of the up coming release of the new 2002 Thunderbird Retro-Bird. William Clayton Ford Jr. was invited along with other important persons. Ford Jr. very nicely declines because of another previously booked event he was committed to attending. Ford’s letter to the Club is presented below.



Picture of the Ford Thunderbird hanging in the original clubhouse

1955 Thunderbird pictured with one of the well dressed members. This picture still hangs in the Club



I can only add that this Thunderbird Club truly lives up to the term “Personal and Distinctive Luxury”. It will be interesting if this Club is once again called upon by Ford to assist in the introduction of the next Ford Thunderbird, if and when...

Classic Thunderbird Movie/TV & Other Trivia

- 1) By 1957 Ford decided to offer how many body solid color choices?
- 2) Why did Ford go a bit overboard with so many color choices?
- 3) How many “Two-Tone color choices were offered?
- 4) How many interior choices were offered?
- 5) How many soft top color choices were offered?

Answer on Page-16>>>



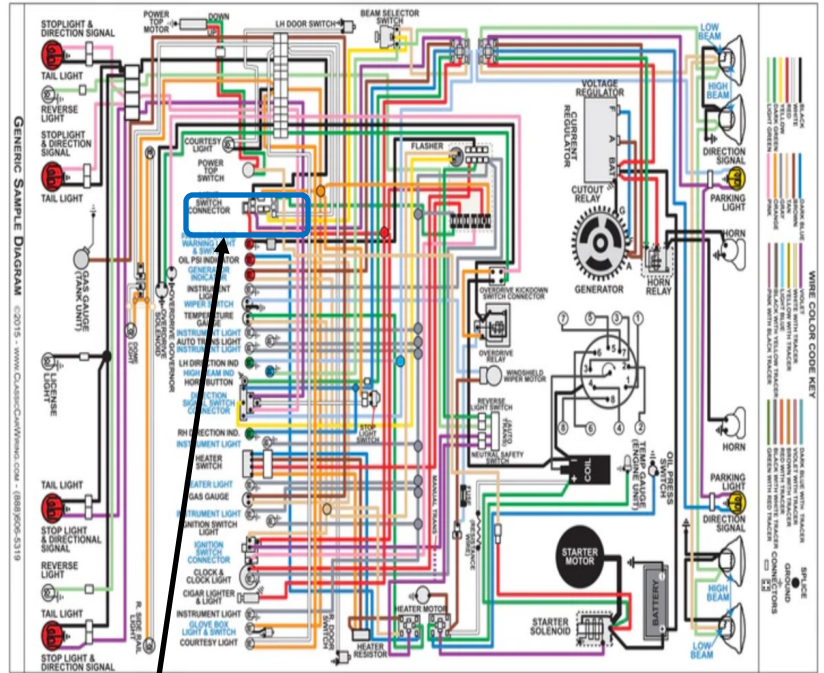
Continued from Page-04 << **(Tech Facts)**

The fuse (7.5amp) may also fail at times. So carry a spare is good advice.

A User tip: *The rheostat should be exercised periodically (Turning left and right a few times every 4-6 months to keep the contact points clean and conductive).*

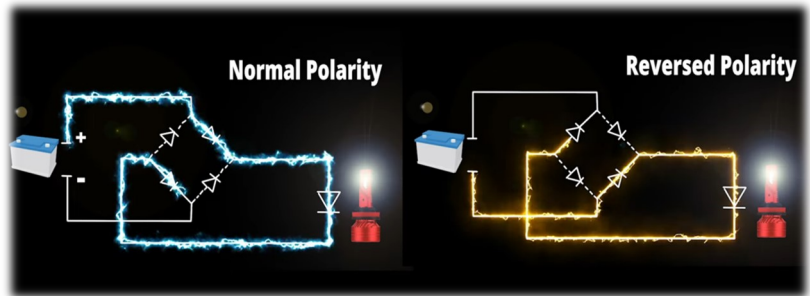
Additional key components of the system are, the Ignition Switch, High-Low Beam Switch and Door-Jamb/Courtesy switches. As for the Ignition Switch, it is pretty much the master of electrical current flowing in the overall system. It energizes the Headlight-Switch, Electric Fuel Pump (if you have one) and the Starter-Solenoid that energizes the starter motor and coil. (see image below).

The High-Beam floor switch controls the headlamps high or low beam selection. Often new aftermarket LED Seal Beams are installed and suffer from an inverted low and high beam selection. This is due to a mix-up in polarity. The OEM lamps did not care about polarity sensitivity. However, many polarized LED OEM lamps cause the activated high beam switch to actually select the low beam. Because the voltage polarity is likely reversed. To the right is a diagram showing how “normal” or “reversed” polarity works using what is referred to as a power supply bridge circuit made of diodes. To fix this situation of reverse polarity you can simply turn the LED lamp connector plugs upside down, inverting the voltage polarity. The High-beam switch uses a center ground with and Low/High beam voltage left/right terminals.

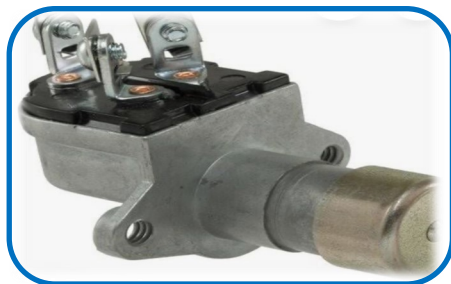


Headlight Switch Module

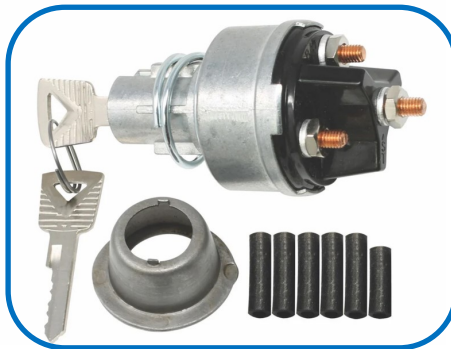
Wiring Diagram for the 57' T-Bird (As an example for reference only)



Test Polarity Bridge Switch



57' High-beam Floor Switch



55-57' Ignition Switch

The Ignition switch located on the lower left dash is rather basic in design. Whereby, a key turned tumbler allows the switch to carry current and voltage to one terminal that energizes the Head Light Switch and with a bit more of a turn, the Starter Solenoid. *This is the reason that such equipped cars of the 1940's, 50's and early 60's could be easily hot wired.* (See image below left at bottom). Many owners have implemented an auxiliary “Kill Switch” under the hood, preventing an under the dash hot wiring event. The right side image is one such Kill-Switch” installation. (Be sure that a switch with the correct current rating for such a applications is selected)



The ignition switch has **4 terminals**: **Battery** (Yellow wire), **ACC** (Black-Green) to fuel & Temp gauges, Orange-Yellow to turn signals as well as radio and heater fan. **IGN** (Red-Green) to ignition resistor and coil on 55', (Black-Green) to Oil and Gen light and **ST (start)** Center post is (Red-Blue) connected to starter solenoid. Note: (A replacement switch will result in a new key code that is incompatible with the existing door locks unless, you exchange the old key tumbler assembly and install in the new ignition switch). Lastly, if you dare to explore and rework electrical issues, it is recommended that you purchase the Ford electrical shop manual.





| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Richard Stoneberger | 05/01 |
| Dave Mock | 05/04 |
| Jody Pokorski | 05/13 |
| Bill Heiden | 05/20 |
| Bob Sioles | 05/23 |
| Carter Rodgers | 05/25 |
| Nikki Musselmann | 05/26 |
| Russ Hanson | 05/27 |
| Danny Kim | 05/31 |

MAY — MONTH's Historical TOPIC SECTION:

Sales Leader: By May of 1957 Ford cars, characterized by a longer, lower, and wider design with the modest tail fin approach, found itself riding high. Found itself in the lead on volume car sales. By year's end, it had become the best-selling car brand for 1957 in America. Outselling Chevrolet for the first time since 1935, some 22 years.

Production Note: *The two-seat 1957 Ford Thunderbird continued in production for 18 months enjoying its best sales year. The 57' model T-bird by years end contributed heavily toward Ford winning the best selling car brand in America.*

Ford Motor Company, a major highlight in 57' was the introduction of the innovative Skyliner retractable hardtop, Ford now being a leader in convertible car offerings. While the company prepared for the big upcoming September launch of the Edsel division. Which as most know, really taxed Ford's bottom line. It became known as "The Car Nobody Really Wanted." As it were, sadly few turned out for the September party.

Ford management also realized by May of 57' that the redesigned four seater 1958 Square Bird would not be ready to be put on sale until December, 1959. The 57' T-Bird model would have to carry the sales volume for T-Bird/Ford longer than expected. A task it did rather well from September 1956 until February, 13, 1958 (18 months of a sales window).



May

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Bill & Robyn Dodd | 05/06 |
| Bob & Donna Sioles | 05/14 |
| Gregg & Linda Thurston | 05/20 |
| Doug & Ellen Shearer | 05/22 |
| Mike & Toni Doles | 05/28 |

Welcome To Our Newest ACTC Members!

Stuart & Jo Cannold Sierra Vista, AZ

Continued from the Previous page <<

In May 1955, Ford experienced a major leadership shift in its styling department, crucial to the success of its redesigned 1955— 1958 lineup.

George Walker was promoted to Vice President of Ford Styling, marking a shift toward more glamorous designs. This period saw the high-volume production of the newly introduced Fairlane series with retractable hardtop, the popular Thunderbird line, and the launch of the new San Jose, CA (A.K.A Milpitas plant) Assembly plant.



The "San Jose, CA 120 acre Ford Assembly plant/ campus, circa 1955/56, land purchased from the Wrigley Family. The giant plant operated for 28 years until the Gas Shortage damaged the mid-to-large car sales in 1974-77. Cars assembled at this plant: Fairlane, Edsel, Cougar, Montego, Comet, Mustang, Falcon, Maverick, Torino, Pinto/Lynx and the F-150 Truck series.

The plant switched primarily to the 1979-83 Ford's economy Escort model ending all assembly by May, 20, 1983.

Today the plant is the "Great Milpitas Shopping Mall of the Bay Area".



ACTC Attends Clarkdale, AZ Car Show Event in Strength

The ACTC was well represented in Cottonwood/Clarkdale on March 13-14th, 2026 for a first time event for the ACTC. In total there were 7 Baby Birds, 1 Retro Bird and one 1968 Thunderbird amongst 149 other cars (including two more T-Birds un-affiliated). Members participating and enjoying this event were: Doug Shearer, Walt & Lynne Bonneau, Tom & Yvonne Wagner (Yvonne's sister & brother in-law), Sheri Dohm, Chuck & Judy Thompson, David Williams, Don Henderson, Gregg & Linda Thurston (Minor mechanical issue, left early), new members Jack & Elaine Jedick and Roger & Cosette Ingram. Many from the group elected to drive their T-Birds from Phoenix to Clarkdale and back, some 230 miles of steep grades and downhills. The good news, all made it safety and without much issue. The old Bird's still have it!

The group also enjoyed on Friday night a small driving tour of our T-Birds, acknowledged by the town's people on our way to a very tasty Italian dinner. Followed by a drive back to the hotel's courtyard fire place, where plenty of good conversation took place. In the morning, the hotel provided a really nice breakfast, then off to the show ...

The actual car show took place on the 14th from 9:00am-to-2:00pm. The public attendance was very good. The ACTC participation for this event took good coordination for sure. Would like to acknowledge Chuck - Thompson for his excellent overall coordination of the event including the hotel, Walt Bonneau for getting this event off the ground and our local member/host David Williams setting up the restaurant and early scouting...



Our one and only group winner the Ingrams' 1968 Thunderbird Coupe "People's Choice"



The T-Bird Lineup — Sure nice tails to be seen



Part of the group relaxing at the hotel's backcourt before the event



Plenty of Sunshine and Public attendees on Main Street



Palette of T-Birds waiting for the Show



ACTC APRIL 11TH, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

There were No official ACTC Club Meeting Minutes taken in April. Since, the normal meeting was superseded by the ACTC Club Annual Picnic Event. See the President's Letter for more information, as well as the Picnic Event coverage on Page- 12.



There will be an abbreviated May, 2026 meeting duration and consequently, an abbreviated Meeting Minutes report for the Sunday May 17th, Club meeting at American Legion Post #107 on N. Cave Creek Rd.

(See Page-13 for more details)

Results of this meeting will be reported on in the Mid-summer July, 2026 Newsletter

To Our ACTC Membership: Summer break is upon us and as we navigate the very warm weather coming soon throughout the Southwest. We would like to send our Winter/Spring members who will be returning to their summer homes in May, a safe journey and we will see you in September!

Enjoy your Summer and find a cool spot!



Start preparing for the Celebration of Route 66's 100th Anniversary as CTCI and VTCI Jointly host the Thunderbird Convention in beautiful Flagstaff, AZ. Five days of adventure from September 9th-13th. Registration has just opened! See your Early Bird issue or website ctci.org for further details.



Old Downtown Flagstaff

The Conventions itinerary and additional details of support are in the works by both Clubs at this time. More details to be provided in the Summer Edition of the Chatter Newsletter to be released in Mid-July, 2026.

We encourage all Thunderbird enthusiasts to get your T-Birds in shape to attend this historical event. While experiencing a wonderful time to socialize, to learn, to discuss, to tour and to just enjoy our T-Birds.

Also see the next page>>>



Little America Hotel in Flagstaff, AZ



HIGHLIGHTED SPECIAL EVENTS

The Following events listed on this page are **Moderately Near-term Events**

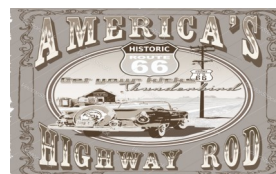
Also See Page-11 & 13 for more events/details.



Notice to All ACTC /CTCI Members!

Don't forget to sign-up for the [Flagstaff, AZ CTCI/VTCI Thunderbird Convention soon](#). This is an amazing opportunity right in our own backdoor and the ACTC really does need to extend our amazing hospitality toward all these attendees traveling from afar for this one-time historic event. If you are also interested in **volunteering (ACTC & CTCI only members)**, to support the various activities and functions during the Annual Thunderbird Convention, please contact Chuck Thompson via email: cthompson57@gmail.com Most of these volunteer positions require involvement of only 2-4 hours of your time but, could make a big difference in how this event functions. Lastly, if you want your T-Bird Shown/Judged, you must sign-up and register (See Page 10).

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, HE CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL PLANNING FOR ATTENDEES.

Note: There may still be room for you to experience this event.

PLEASE NOTE !
All dates and events listed above are tentative



April 11th, 2026 — Annual ACTC Picnic Event

Many of our ACTC members (over 40) attended the annual picnic hosted by Jack and Nikki Musselmann at their spacious and beautiful home in Chandler, AZ. There was plenty of space for all and the weather could not have been better, at least 7-8 drove their T-Birds. The nearly 4 hour event included a potluck luncheon with plenty of good items to chose from for sure. It was like eating at a smorgasbord, there were so many dishes of different foods. Also during the event, we were so pleased to have the president of the Arizona Farm Bureau (AFB), (John Boelts), who accepted our request to be our guest speaker this year. After his introduction by Walt Bonneau, he spoke for 35-40 mins on various agricultural issues and the benefits of the abundance of locally grown produce in Arizona the “Farm-to-Table” experiences. He also covered briefly the AFB’s total business portfolio that also included Farm, Auto & Home insurance coverage. (As they presently insurance a few of the T-Bird’s). Many found his presentation to be interesting and highly informative, followed by numerous questions from our very engaged membership.

Immediately following, three of the Club T-Shirts were raffled off which brought a few more smiles. Before we kicked-off the picnic, our ACTC president Doug Shearer had started with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a few calendar items and wished all to truly enjoy themselves during the picnic while thanking Jack and Nikki for hosting the club. Lastly, Jack’s garage home to his 57 T-Bird is simply amazing.



The ACTC’s Smorgasbord of Food — So Good!



President John Boelts Guest Speaker



New members (Robert & Cathie Faerber) 1st ACTC Picnic



Our ACTC 2025/26 T-Shirt—Raffle



ACTC YEAR-2026 OFFICIAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

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

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 ,AZ

RSVP Notice for the Luncheon/Meeting due by May 10th, call Bob Michele.

- ⇒ Meet Time: 10:45am to 11:15am, Luncheon Starts: 11:30AM, Abbreviated ACTC Meeting: 12:15-1:00PM
- ⇒ Off to the Police Museum in Phoenix as our T-Bird Driving Tour (CTCI/VTCI) at: 1:15PM arrive 2:00PM, The Museum (17 S. 2nd Ave., Opens at 2:15PM and the Public Parking Garage is located at 305 W. Washington Ave. offered at a discount rate (Call Bob Michele by April 22nd for Museum Attendance Count)

In Memory of Stewart Wright— Another long-time ACTC member has passed away on. He was the go- to guy for everything having to do with our classic T-Birds. What he didn't know about the cars and maintenance of T-birds wasn't worth knowing. His expertise helped so many of us get started in T-Birding, and he was never too busy to offer help and advice, the kind of ACTC member that is much needed. He is deeply missed. Now daughter Sandi is dealing with the sad task of disposing of Stewart's decades-long collection of cars, parts, engines, etc., some of which is listed in an ACTC email and as follows: A '57 T-Bird, runs well, Soft top, restored engine completely done with T-Bird parts complimented with a fully restored engine block. Includes new T-bird tires and wheel - covers.



Call Sandi Wright at (520) 240-4851 to arrange a date and time to check out Stewart's collection.

- ⇒ ACTC Summer Break starts May 18th, 2026 until September 8th, 2026. Our next event is the CTCI/ VTCI Thunderbird Convention September 9-13th, 2026 in Flagstaff, AZ (See Page-10 for more details)
- ⇒ Our next ACTC Official Meeting will be scheduled for October, 2026. The exact date is in the works.
- ⇒ The Annual ACTC Christmas Party Planning for early December is also in the works.
- ⇒ Other Events from October through December will be announced as more information becomes available, stay tuned...

- ⇒ Look for the next issue of the ACTC Chatter Newsletter in Mid-July, 2026 for more informative articles and updated event scheduling/details.

PLEASE NOTE !

All dates and events listed above are tentative

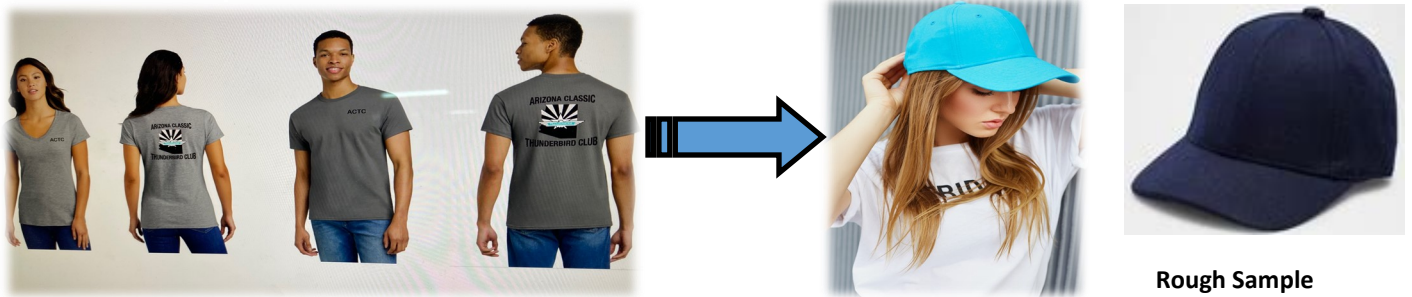


OTHER ACTC INFORMATION TO KNOW






ACTC 2025/2026 T-Shirt Apparel Sale (Completely SOLD OUT!)

The ACTC's Board—**Ways and Means** wants to extend a big thank you to all who purchased one or more of these nice T-Shirts. We originally ordered 60 of these shirts back in February, 2025, as of this month, all have been purchased with the exception of the last three. The last three T-Shirts have been gifted as a free raffle item give-away at the ACTC's Annual Picnic. Happy to report that the program was successful in contributing to the ACTC Treasury and its membership.

The **Ways and Means** is also working on a possible ACTC Club Hat, so look in late fall-2026 for this offering.



On the lighter-side of Thunderbird

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Bill this is Ed from Home Reality, I need to meet with you in my office today about the house you made the offer on this week. I have both good and bad news to share.</p> | <p>Glad you made it Bill, well lets get down to business.</p> <p>Bill, the good news is that the home owner accepted your full offer on the house.</p>  |
| <p>Now for the bad news: The HOA approval failed. They will not except you as a new home owner or membership to the club. They said; you dress crazy and are out of sync with the community.</p>  | <p>But not all bad news Bill; They did except your Coral Color 56' T-Bird to be parked in the driveway even over night, a big deal!</p>  <p>Ed, I dress ok! So what if my cloths are a decade after the T-Bird's totally cool styling..?</p>  |



The Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club (ACTC)

Founded as Chapter #35 of the CTCL 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 CTCL. 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 Board

This Section Intentionally is Left Blank

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 of the actual newsletter date to meet the publication deadline.

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

CTCL Membership Registration Form @ Website: ctcl.org, Phone 1-816-421-8273, ask for membership. Information. New Registrations are available throughout the year.




FORMS, NEWS, EVENTS & MISC. INFORMATION



**2026 ACTC MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DEADLINE
January 23rd 2026**

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 EMAIL _____ SPOUSE EMAIL _____ CTCL NO. _____
 CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD(S) OWNED _____
 YEAR _____ COLOR _____ (1955-57' & 2002-05' CLASSIC (RETRO BIRDS))
 YEAR _____ COLOR _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

**For A Clean Membership Form : Website: AZclassicthunderbirds.org
and click on the "Membership Section" to Download & Print**

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Check # _____
 Date _____
 Amount _____
 Year 2026



Movie/TV Series Trivia Answers (See Page #06 for the Questions):

- 1) There were 10 body color choices.
- 2.) Ford jumped on the marketing term "Personal Luxury Car of Distinction", offering many personal color selections.
- 3.) There were 34 two-tone color choices.
- 4.) There were 6 interior choices
- 5.) There were 3 soft-top color choices (White, Black and Tan).



New Membership Request;

Contact Judy Thompson
New Advertisers Welcomed;
 Contact Walt Bonneau

**Remember All meetings are:
 smoke and cell phone free!**




Arizona Bird Chatter

AZ CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Published by:

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CTCI Chapter 35
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 Yuma, AZ 85367
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