



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 06 — July, 2026

CTCI-2025 Gold Medallion Winner

July Summer Issue



This months Featured Tbird

A few months ago, I sold our '57 Starmist Blue Thunderbird, built by ACTC members Don and Wes Henderson, and on the same day purchased an '05 Ford Retro Bird from ACTC members Gary and Jamie Thompson. This car is a nice driving car and quite comfortable and do plan to drive it to multiple ACTC events.

The '05 Bird is a special issue 11th generation, #120 of only 1500, manufactured (*approximately +1,300 are still on the road*). It is called the **Cashmere 50th Anniversary Edition** celebrating 50 years of the very first 1955 Thunderbird. The "Cashmere" reference is about the beautiful silver, metallic, Pearl "Tri-Coat" paint that was only available on this year and model. This 21 year old classic has only 18,000 miles and has absolutely no flaws.

A little history and specification of this car;

- ◇ *A Cool Feature: The steering wheel is partially wrapped in cashmere,*
- ◇ *Open both doors and look from the back of the car forward and you will see the famous Thunderbird wings,*
- ◇ *The all-aluminum engine is a 3.9L DOHC, V8 that was shared with the Lincoln LS and Jaguar S-Type,*
- ◇ *Horsepower rated @280 & 286 lb.-ft of Torque providing 0-60mph in 6.6 seconds (very respectable),*
- ◇ *5-Speed Automatic Transmission with manual mode shifting (This Engine/Transmission combination is known as type AJ35. Whereby, the 2002 and some 2003 models were equipped with type AJ30 variant.*
- ◇ *Engine was manufactured exclusively at the Ford Lima Engine Plant in Ohio (45 miles north of Dayton).*

Since we have only had the car for a short time, there isn't much history that I can relate to you. Kathy and I are looking forward to our future pleasure driving of this beautiful machine.





From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

Well summer is finally here and already it's hot. Still trying to cope with three to four months of blue sky, sun and no rain. I guess I'll need to do a rain dance. Oh well.

I had mentioned in the last presidents message that on May 17th both members from ACTC and VTCI were going to the Police Museum in Phoenix as part of Thunderbird Appreciation Day. Well, we had a great time looking at the many artifacts including a helicopter, police car and motorcycles that were inside the museum and many other artifacts from when the Phoenix police department first started back the early 1900's to present day. Police historians spoke about how the department was formed and how corrupt it was and what needed to be done to get the department to what it is today. Quite fascinating to say the least. Thanks to Cosette Ingram and Bob Michele for organizing the event. Well done.

During our abbreviated May meeting at the American Legion, Bob Michele made an announcement that he will be stepping down from his position as V.P./Activities/Member at large positions. He's been invaluable to ACTC in many ways since joining the club back in 2009. I personally want to congratulate Bob and Kathy for the work they have done in making this club what it is today and hopefully what it will be going forward. He assured me that he will continue with the emails to the members and emailing out the Bird Chatter each month and continue telling his jokes at the meetings. Can't stop that!!

His stepping down won't happen until the start of the New Year which means we need a new V.P. an event committee of at least three people to help organize events. This can be rotational in terms of the people involved each taking a month or two including myself to help out. I've reached out to several members to see if they are interested in these positions and hope to hear back soon as to their decision. I'd like to have a smooth transition come January with setting up our meeting schedule and collecting money at each meeting.

On a different note, we have some events coming up. On August 15th is the Mother Road Classic Route 66 Charity Car Show in Flagstaff at the city hall parking lot on Aspen St. Go on the website for further info on that.

On September 8-13 we have the VTCI Convention in Flagstaff, AZ at the Little America hotel campus. So far we have about 12 members signed up for that. If you haven't yet registered, please do so very soon. Rooms are filling up. More info on the convention will be announced in the coming weeks.--

See More on top of the Next Page>>>



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>>>



Inside looking through the Porthole”

Continued from Page-02<<

Sept 25-27 is getting close for the Run to the Pines car show . Organizers have already sent out their notices as to who got registered in the show (Sold Out).

One last event that Walt Bonneau is organizing is the ACTC “Laps for Charity” at the Phoenix Raceway sponsored by NASCAR on October 3rd. Reach out to Walt for further info. Should be a lot of fun running laps with the T-birds behind an official NASCAR pace car.

All the best Doug this Summer and with that in mind, I offer you this thought:

“There is no experience better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up” .

__John Andrew Holme

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



⇒ **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?

⇒ 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



There are still items available!

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

Items You Should Consider Having in Your Trunk

By: Walt Bonneau and Sheri Dohm

Whether you are an experienced or novice mechanic or somewhere in between, the following suggested carry along items in your trunk may get you out of a jam:

If you own a T-Bird Equipped with a Carburetor

- ⇒ A can of Ether (>45%) based starting fluid
- ⇒ A long 12" screw driver straight blade
- ⇒ A hard rubber mallet
- ⇒ Pliers



Any T-Bird

- ⇒ A roll of 3M Automotive Utility Tape, handles high temperatures including a fast fluid hose temporary repair. Can be more useful than Duc Tape,
- ⇒ 1-2 extra lug nuts,
- ⇒ Wheel lug wrench correct for your car,
- ⇒ A low profile scissor jack (lift capacity of >3,500lbs), only needs 5 inches of space,
- ⇒ Quality Pocket/Utility Knife,
- ⇒ Two 1 or 2" X 6" X 12" boards for jack ground stability,



- ⇒ 1 or 2 small wheel chocks (Stop roll),
- ⇒ A correct spare tire for your car — check yours for useability,



- ⇒ A set of Open End Wrench's (SAE English) type,
- ⇒ Two-Medium Screwdrivers - Philips & Straight blade,
- ⇒ A small set of Allen Key Wrenches,
- ⇒ Small can of WD-40 lubricant,
- ⇒ Spare inline glass fuses 7.5amp/1-inch and any other fuse type your car may use,
- ⇒ Fire Extinguisher type "ABC" ,
- ⇒ Spare Fan Belt set,
- ⇒ Quality battery Jumper Cables or Quick Jumper unit,
- ⇒ A spare door/ignition key set "Hidden Location",
- ⇒ An extra quart of engine oil,
- ⇒ A gallon of distilled water (Longer trips),
- ⇒ A Plastic Pry-bar set (If you have K-H wire wheels),
- ⇒ Your Road Service Call Number!
(When all else fails.)



Historical Facts

What are those Baby T-Bird's Valued at Today?

By Walt Bonneau and data from the publication in the May 01, 2026 Old Cars Magazine

The Average Value of Your T-Bird some 70-71 years later, based on the Open Classic Car Market may surprise you. Simply because these T-Bird classics have managed to maintain being a solid classic car investment and are still quite desired.

Note: At auction, values could be higher or lower dependent on model/where located/who owned/or restored the car. For example: A 1957 T-Bird E-Code in year 2026, rated a #1 and restored by Minter sold at Jackson Scottsdale, AZ Auction for +\$159,500.00.

The Following are the 1-6 rating categories:

You can apply to your car's status. Do not include sentimental value factors, because 95% of potential buyers simply do not value that aspect of your car's actual market worth, unless there is a famous association.

Rating of 1: Excellent/ Near Perfect Condition, restored to original show room/ +95 points out of 100 a professional Car-show award winning car.

Rating of 2: Fine Condition, restored to original possibly driven 1,000 miles/ Yr. Top award possible at car shows.

Rating of 3: Very Good Condition, older restoration showing some wear but still quite nice, a driver.

Rating of 4: Good Condition, A driver with wear even noticeable at 20 feet away, in need of restoration.

Rating of 5: Restorable Condition, needs a complete restoration include some parts replacement. May not be operational.

Rating of 6: Parts Car Condition, the car is beyond cost effective restoration but some parts usable on other such vehicles.

Vehicle Model and Year

1955 Convertible* 102" Wheel Base with 292 CID V8 at 195-200 HP (*Includes the Soft-top option)

Rating	6	5	4	3	2	1
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Value: \$2,760 \$8,280 \$13,800 \$31,050 \$48,300 \$69,000

Sold New (with common options) in the range of \$2,944 to \$3,000 MSRP, in today's dollars \$37,000.00

Continued on top of Page-05>>>



Continued from Page-04<< (Historical Facts)

1956 Convertible* 102" Wheel Base (P-Code (312 CID V8 with 4-barrel @ 8.4:1 compression and 215HP)

Note: *In 1956, Ford introduced the Thunderbird with minimal styling changes but added significant options: Twice the paint and interior choices, a 312 CID V8 engine with 8.1:1 compression @ 215-225HP, more power options, Hardtop with Port-hole window, Continental Kits and the Lifeguard Safety Package.*

Rating 6 5 4 3 2 1

Value: \$3,040 \$9,120 \$15,200 \$34,200 \$53,200 \$76,000

Sold New (with common options) in the range of \$3,000 to \$3,900.00 with added Continental Kit option. In today's dollars \$35,500 and \$46,000.00

Additive Note: 1956 model add \$1,800 for clean hardtop, add for 1956 \$500.00 for M-Code.

1957 Convertible* 102" Wheel Base (D-Code (312 CID) V8 with 4-barrel @ +9.7:1 compression and 245HP)

Note: *In 1957, Ford offered major body (6.0" longer) and interior styling changes. Including a larger trunk to accommodate the spare tire while preserving trunk space , having a lower profile more aerodynamic body, An aircraft style instrument panel and increased engine horsepower (ranging from 245-310 HP), More paint choices and interiors. The MSRP for the 1957 model did not increase much over the 1956 model but, new options really added up.*

Rating 6 5 4 3 2 1

Value: \$3,420 \$10,260 \$17,100 \$38,475 \$59,489 \$85,500

Sold New (with common options) in the range of \$3,100 to \$3,950 MSRP with the Continental Kit option and Lifeguard safety. In today's dollars \$36,800 and \$46,800.00

Add for the 1957 model, up to 40-50% for E-Code, 90-100% for F-Code –Super Charged cars.

Summary Top Value:

According to Hemmings Market Place and AI compiled recorded sales data, the overall value of these early Tbird classics have been remarkably stable showing a **loss of 0-3.5%**. While several other 50's and 60's classic cars have on average **loss 7-12%** of value since 2022. Note: Most 1940-1970's classics have loss some measure of value in recent years.

1955 with Hardtop rating of #1: \$70,800.00

1956 with Hardtop, M-Code rating of #1: \$78,300.00

1957 with Hardtop rating of #1: \$87,300.00

1957 with Hardtop, E-Code rating of #1: \$122,220.00**

1957 with Hardtop, F-Code rating of #1: \$174,600.00***

Additive Notes: Add \$1,800 for clean hardtop. Add for 1956 \$500.00 for M-Code. Add for the 1957 model up to 40-50% for E-Code, 90-100% for F-Code cars.

** applying 40% additive *** applying 100% additive

For Other T-Bird Model Comparison: **1959 TBird (Square Bird) Convertible** (J-Code 430 CID V8)

Rating of #1 is fully valued at : \$77,570.00



May 17, 2026 -ACTC Meeting (The Last Meeting Until October, 2026 (Summer Break)

We had a relatively small member turnout, with 21 spirited members in attendance. We were expecting nearly 30 even with the normal out of state winter visitors and locals who leave for cooler temperatures in Payson, Pine Top and Flagstaff, starting in May. Despite the low turnout we still managed to have eight T-Birds in the parking lot and enjoyed plenty of club discussion and member conversations.

The meeting provided much information on the Summer Break and planned FALL EVENTS. (See pages 9-11).

There was a discussion of future event planning and an announced change of guard in the Club's VP position. (See pages 7-8 for the Official Minutes of the Meeting).

The group enjoyed a very nice luncheon with really good desserts during the meeting and some gathered in the parking lot at the conclusion of the meeting to tour off to the Phoenix Police Museum, joining the VTCL members as well.

See you all back in October!



May 17th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:05 AM by President Doug Shearer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Doug Shearer, Walt Bonneau, Bob Michele, Chuck Thompson, Myrna Foster.

President: Doug gave a summary of the meeting agenda and mentioned National Thunderbird Day was today and the planned event to the Phoenix Police Department Museum following the meeting (Doug gave additional comments throughout the meeting).

Vice President: Meeting began with Bob Michele giving an update on Don Henderson being rushed into ER where he was admitted and diagnosed with severe pain from a twisted small intestine and a urinary infection. Surgery was done the following day and he is expected to recover (Update: He is doing quite well). Don even thought he might be able to attend the planned May ROMEO luncheon in a few weeks.

Bob gave one of his famous jokes which went over quite well, always gives a smile to the meetings.

Bob announced that he will be stepping down from his office of Vice President of the Club after some 10-years of service to the club, at the first of the year. However, he is willing to maintain his well performed emailing function. Continuing to send messages/emails as needed. Doug said he will share Bob's EXCEL spreadsheets as needed by other members to continue business as usual.

Bob **summarized** just how much time is spent of phone calls a week and especially before every meeting and can make as many as +20 calls, as many as 15 messages left and actually getting varying number of calls backs. He mentioned: There were three members who cancelled this morning of for this May 17th meeting right before he arrived at the ACTC Meeting. This creates problems for the serving staff and for the event coordinator, not to speak of negative cost related issues.

Doug agreed that the Board has from now until after the Christmas Party to find a VP replacement.

Bob felt that "just 21 people at this meeting is "pathetic", even with the snowbirds gone there should be 30-35 members attending these meetings. "I think they're just losing interest and I don't know why". We've come up with things to do, and they don't participate in those things anyway. What I am doing today is booking October and November here (American Legion Post) and if everybody agrees, we do the same/similar but with a twist Christmas Party since so many liked last years party."

Doug, "Again? Are we having a September meeting with the Big Convention of Sept. 9-13th?"

Bob, "Cancel the September ACTC Meeting on the 13th due to the CTCI/VTCI Annual Convention in Flagstaff."

Doug, "Yeah, ok."

Bob, "ok then October, I'm reserving for Tech Day. (Update: Moved to February, 2027) But that's going to take someone to run it and someone to sponsor it. You know, either provide a place or find a place that will rent to us (Update: It is in the works...).

"Whatever? So, I'm not booking October (Update: October meeting will be scheduled in mid-month). here, but if it's alright, we're goanna do October and November here. And the Christmas Party everybody agreed, the same party you had, with an Italian buffet, I don't have to change much of anything."

Doug, "Do we think we can get the DJ again? They were good."... Yes will try.

Bob, "Also noted that some of the new members don't seem to be very active in the Club's activities. Bob further voiced that he is concerned with next years involvement by the membership."

Continued on top of Page-08>>>



Continued from Page-07<< **Meeting Minutes**

Doug, "alright, let's just say they're not volunteering to do much."

Chuck, "Mentioned, not enough things are in place to be active. We need more activities."

Walt, "stated that he agreed with Chuck on the point of needing more exciting events"

Doug, concluded this conversation by saying; "We have work to do."

Ways and Means: Walt Bonneau mentioned that the Summer Break issue of the "Chatter" Newsletter would be issued on or before July 15th and contained an array of information including multiple events planned in the Fall of 2026. He also mentioned that reader ship has improved by according to Bob's email response, we are still seeing less than 70% of the membership, who actually reads this award winning newsletter.

He also mentioned that the May, 2026 issue of the newsletter was submitted to the CTCI committee in late May, as the ACTC's club entry in the international judging competition.

Walt, mentioned that the Ways and Means was working on a new apparel club offering of a baseball style had for the late fall of 2026. "There is much to do to make this happen". He also asked for suggestions to what would be placed on the hat? (Update: by a small amount of feedback to date: The ACTC's official logo is preferred).

Treasurer: Chuck Thompson provided a quick summary of the Club's finances and said: " The Club is still on solid ground with a small increase in the overall funds.

He also mentioned; "That only four members from the ACTC had signed up for the Flagstaff Convention and encouraged others to do so soon."

Hospitality: Yvonne Wagner was absent for this meeting .

Public Relations: Don Henderson was absence from the meeting due to his surgery recovery.

Web Master: No Report. (Update: Russ Hanson right after the meeting mentioned that NASCAR / Phoenix Raceway contact the ACTC through the Web mail and forwarded the message to Walt Bonneau.

Membership: Judy Thompson mentioned that the membership is holding steady.

WEB Master: No report/Update

No 50/50 this meeting

Motion and agreed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am followed by a luncheon.

By: Secretary Myrna Foster



Thunderbird Movies, TV Series, Advertisements and General Trivia

Questions of the Month:

- 1.) Who wrote the lyrics and created the accompanying music to the Beach Boy's song "Fun, Fun, Fun"?
- 2.) What year did the song Fun, Fun, Fun get released and hit the air waves? How many copies did it sell?
- 3.) On the initial release of Fun, Fun, Fun... what Beach Boy album contained this hit song?
- 4.) The Beach Boys sound and in particular the Fun, Fun, Fun song defined what social definition/period?
- 5.) The lyrics to Fun, Fun, Fun were inspired by two music legends, who are they?

See answers on page-19>>>



ACTC Events Official Calendar

Sep. 09-13, 2026 VTCI Flagstaff, AZ Convention (In Lieu of a ACTC meeting, see below for details)

Sat. Oct. 03, 2026 — NASCAR/Phoenix Raceway ACTC—"Laps for Charity" Event (Now **SOLD OUT** but, taking 1 or 2 standbys if you are interested.

Sun. Oct. 18, 2026 — ACTC Start of the Winter Season Kick-off Meeting:

Location: American Legion Post #107, 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix

Members arrive between 8:30 am–8:50 am, Meeting starts at 9:00 am.

Breakfast served at 9:30 am, Cost is \$18.00/person which includes: meal, drinks and service tip to staff.

Sun. Nov. 15, 2026 — ACTC Meeting (*Last official meeting of 2026*)

Same venue location, times and breakfast as per the Oct. 18th meeting.

Dec. 12, 2026— Annual ACTC Christmas Party!

Location: American Legion Post 107 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix

Time: 4:00pm—8:00pm (4-5pm cocktail hour, 5-6:00 pm dinner, 6:15-8.00 pm

Music, Games and Dancing)

Menu and Price per person/couple in the works. **"We all had a great time last year, let's do it again!"**



Start preparing for the **Celebration of Route 66's 100th Anniversary** as **VTCI** will host the **Thunderbird Convention** in beautiful Flagstaff, AZ. And ACTC is invited. Four days of adventure from September 8/9th-13th. **Registration is open!** (*CTCI Organization will not be participating but, Chapters will*). See the required VTCI Registration on Page-12.



Old Downtown Flagstaff

The Conventions itinerary and additional details of support are now finalized again See Page-10 –12 for the Registration/Hotel/Agenda. Remember, you must be or become a member of VTCI to attend and enjoy the full convention activities.

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.



Little America Hotel in Flagstaff, AZ



Early Fall 2026 Events



Oct. 3rd, 2026 (Saturday) in Avondale, Details AZ

Have you ever wanted to experience Phoenix Raceway from behind the wheel?

Here's your chance! Phoenix Raceway will be hosting **Track Laps for Charity** event on Saturday, October 3rd. For a donation to Phoenix Raceway Charities, you will get the exciting opportunity to drive five laps around the Phoenix Raceway following the official pace car.

ACTC car club will have the exclusive opportunity to take the track for five laps behind the official Phoenix Raceway Pace Car. This experience takes place during a dedicated Car Club Hour prior to the event opening to the general public, allowing your group to cross the start/finish line together in a truly memorable way. The Fee: \$30.00 Donation plus \$25.00 Winner Circle Professional photograph and \$3.00 club fee (\$58.00 ACTC Club Package). Please pay via Zelle or check to Walt Bonneau (Tax deductible receipt will be issued by NASCAR at the event).

Oct. 9th & 10th Beeline Car Show in Payson, AZ

33rd Beeline Cruise-in Car Show 2026			
Hosted by the Beeline Cruisers Motor Club			
Friday, October 9th & Saturday, October 10th			
Friday, October 9th Registration 12PM, Cruise, Burger Burn at Ramsey Park, 400 N. McLane Rd.			
Saturday, October 10th Car Show at Green Valley Park, 600 S. Green Valley Pkwy			
Day of show registration: Zane Grey Museum parking, 700 S. Green Valley Pkwy 7:AM—9:AM			
VEHICLE REGISTRATION FORM		PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY	
Registration of 2001 or OLDER Cars, Trucks, Rat Rods & Low Riders.			
Early registration \$45. After October 1st \$55.			
We prefer checks through the mail. Your entry includes: Entry, One FREE T-Shirt & Dash Plaque (for first 250 entries).			
REFUND POLICY This is a rain or shine event. No refunds!			
Send this completed entry with check payable to:			
Beeline Cruisers Motor Club P.O. Box 2853 c/o car show Payson, AZ 85547			
Car Show Registration Info: Beverly Tozi 928-970-1700			
Car Show email: BeelineCruiseIn@gmail.com			
If registering the day of, please have form filled out.			
PARKING PREFERENCE RULES			
Registration of 2001 or OLDER		Registration of 2001 or OLDER	
Event	Fee Each	Qty.	Total
Car Show Entry		(1)	
Includes 1 FREE T-Shirt	SIZE _____	(1)	\$00.00
Friday Burger Burn			
NO day of event tickets			
Cut off date Oct. 1st	\$ 11. ea.		
Extra T-Shirt order			
SM ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	\$ 25. ea.		
2X ___ 3X ___	\$ 30. ea.		
T-Shirt sizes for sale at show will be limited, order now to get the size that you want!			TOTAL _____
Parking Preference: (See Rules and Disclaimer below)			
Grass Area _____ (no early departures allowed)			
Blacktop _____ (can leave early if needed)			
Only 45 spaces available (first come first served)			



Flagstaff, AZ Convention –2026 Hosted by VTCL. Registration Form is located on Page-11.

You are encouraged to go online to www.azthunderbirdclub.com/registration for additional information, also see below brochure:



**Eleven Thunderbird Generations
One Incredible Convention
We cannot wait to see you there!**

The once-in-a-lifetime celebration of two American icons – Route 66 and Ford Thunderbird

LEGENDS ON THE MOTHER ROAD
ROUTE 66
1926 2026
Thunderbirds Celebrate the Route 66 Centennial

A destination experience that blends classic cars, American road travel, and unforgettable scenery.

• Owners • Enthusiasts •
• All Thunderbird Generations Welcome •

2026 All Thunderbird Convention
Celebrating the Route 66 Centennial
Flagstaff Arizona • September 8-13



Convention Registration Information:
www.azthunderbirdclub.com/registration



Host Hotel: Little America/Flagstaff
Use the QR code to Reserve Your Room Now



2026 THUNDERBIRDS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

VTCI REGISTRATION FORM

Sept. 8th-13th

Name

Spouse/Guests

Mailing Address

E-Mail Address

VTCI Number

VTCI Chapter Affiliation

Phone Number

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

E-Mail Address

Are you a First Timer?

Are you willing to serve as a Judge?

Do you want to be an exhibitor in the Swap Meet?

Event/Membership Form for Non-VTCI Members Wishing to be Judged/Attend on Website www.azthunderbirdclub.com

Are bringing your Thunderbird?

Driving

Trailer

Year

Model

VIN

Non-Judged Divisions

Judged Divisions

VTCI Membership Required

(See Volume 1 of the Concours Rules on the VTCI Website)

☐ Senior Participation

☐ Display

☐ Senior

☐ Primary

☐ Driver

☐ Late Model

☐ Modified

☐ Touring

☐ 2002-2005

☐ 2002-2005 Modified

☐ Winem Preservation & Authenticity Award

T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention

Open to All Years

T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention and eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" Award.

Eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" award: 1955-1979. Path to obtain Senior Status.

1955-1979 only. Engine compartment, trunk & undercarriage not judged.

1980-1997 200-point system; all areas judged.

1955-1997 only. 200-point system; all areas judged.

1955-1997 only. Undercarriage not judged; modifications for safety, reliability & comfort allowed. See Volume 1 Concours Rules.

100-point system; undercarriage not judged.

100-point system; undercarriage not judged.

Advance Notice / Separate Application Required; minimum 30 days in advance

Registration deadline for cars to be judged-August 8, 2026 (No Exceptions)**

QTY

COST

TOTAL

Registration Fee

Couple/Family (children under 18 included) (Enter #1 for a couple)

Single (Individuals over age 18)

70

45

Tuesday Sept 8th

3PM-6PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"

Explore Flagstaff Area or Historic Downtown (Convention Packet includes Flagstaff Route 66 Places of Interest & Restaurant Listing)

incl

Wednesday Sept 9th

8AM-5PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"

10AM VTCI Board of Directors Meeting & General Membership Meeting

2PM Tour - Lowell Observatory

Includes "Cosmic Highways: A Centennial Tour Experience" - exploring how Route 66 paved a path of astronomical discovery

7PM "Get Your Kicks at the Evening Mix" - Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar

incl

30

27

Thursday Sept 10th

8AM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"

8AM-11AM VTCI Judge Training

1PM-4PM Tour - Riordan Mansion - includes Route 66 Centennial Exhibit

6:30PM "Fun, Fun, Fun" - Thunderbird Buffet with Cash Bar

18

68

Friday Sept 11th

8AM-8:30AM Owners/Operators Meeting

9:00 AM VTCI Concours Judging

12 Noon Judge's Lunch - All other attendees Lunch on their own

2:30PM Tour - Museum of Northern Arizona

Includes "Route 66: Wagon Road to the Mother Road" Exhibit

5:30PM Guest Speaker - Jim Hinckley, internationally acclaimed author, historian, expert on Route 66, the American Southwest, and the American automobile industry.

incl

incl

18

incl

Saturday Sept 12th

7AM-9AM Swap Meet

8AM Driving Tour Option #1 - Route 66 Roadtrip - Seligman, Ashfork, Williams

Breakfast & Shopping in Seligman, Visit Ash Fork's Route 66 Museum, Williams Lunch, Historic Route 66 Downtown District & Grand Canyon Railway Depot

9:30AM Pickup Box Lunch for Driving Tour Option #2

10AM Driving Tour Option #2 - Sunset Crater Volcano & Wupaki National Monuments

National Park Service Requires Entrance Fee of \$25 per vehicle - Free w/America the Beautiful Pass.

5:30PM Cocktails w/cash bar / 6:30PM Awards Banquet; Plated. Mark preference.

Chicken

Salmon

Prime Rib

Vegetarian

3XL

3XL

N/C

30

N/C

72

Polo Shirt

S

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

25

T-Shirt

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2027 Calendar

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Make Check Payable to > VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club Intl)

Cutoff Date For Mail Registrations: August 8, 2026

MAIL to: VTCI c/o ROGER INGRAM

6137 W Poinsettia Drive

Glendale, AZ 85304-2515

HOTEL: Little America Hotel

2515 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Rate: \$189 per night (Cutoff Date: August 8, 2026)

(800) 352-4386

Reservation Link: <https://www.thunderbirdinternational.com/registration>

(Please Let Reservation Clerk Know You Are With The Thunderbirds International Convention.)

Total Enclosed (US Funds)





June

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mike Wood	06/07
Stuart Cannold	06/08
Kathy Postola	06/14
Steve Kovacic	06/18
Robert Mock	06/20
Jim Rodgers	06/22
Virginia Synder	06/22
Stuart Roos	06/23
Donna Sioles	06/24
Dale Lillard	06/30

July

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

August

Char Reznick	08/02
Jacki McKee	08/06
Carol Smith	08/24
Beverly Lynch	08/28
Kate Marchisotto	08/31
Jose Luis Romero	08/31

Welcome To Our Newest ACTC Member!

Frank Principe
Tucson, AZ



June

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Walt & Lynne Bonneau	06/06
Duane & Myrna Foster	06/07
Otis & Judy Wolkins	06/09
Don & Rosemary Henderson	06/09
Julia McCoy & Tom Strabala	06/19
Shirley & Howard Goldman	06/26
Joe & Karen Arredondo	06/30

July

George & Sherry Randall	07/04
Patrick Lewis & Kathy Postola	07/09
Doug & Mardy White	07/11
Wes & Jen Henderson/Taylor	07/16
Jack & Nikki Musselmann	07/19
Carol Smith & Stephen Kemery	07/27

August

Frank & Beverly Saccente	08/26
--------------------------	-------

Early Summer of 1954 Thunderbird Event

Ford introduces a real functional hood air-intake scoop on the T-Bird model for 55'. The first-year Thunderbirds boasted in advertisements a truly functional hood scoop. The engine's air cleaner assembly was fitted with a rubber seal (later cork on cover) against the underside of the scoop to funnel cool air directly into the carburetor. This assembly featured a famous hood decal that instructed the owner:

Hood Scoop Intake cover — "Remove for Summer Driving". Which related to taking off the air scoop's "blocker-off plate" pictured to the right.



May 01-03, 2026 Route 66 Fun Run Event Report

We had a great group of 20 folks participating in this year's 100th Anniversary Fun Run: Don and Rosemary Henderson, Doug Shearer, Russ and Margie Hanson, Yvonne and Tom Wagner, Ken and Iva Lane, Alan, Shelly, Lenora and Frederick Thurston, Sheri Dohm, Jennifer and Bret Kiley, Bill and Barbara Beeson, and Gregg and Linda Thurston.

Friday, May 1 began with a caravan of 8 vehicles heading north through Prescott Valley, to Ash Fork, to lunch at the 50's Westside Lilo's Cafe in Seligman, and then back to the hotel in Williams, with dinner at the 50's Cruiser's Cafe. Along the way we saw plenty of 50's & 60's cars and original Route 66 shops, hotels, and restaurants.

On Saturday after eating breakfast at Goldie's Route 66 Diner, the group drove old Route 66 from Seligman to Hackberry and then to the car show in Kingman. Some of us also enjoyed lunch at Mr. D's 50's diner, as well as the car show, and a few photos for the little kids at the large steam engine in the park.

At the end of the car show, the Wagner's' 56 Bird was unable to start, but with a little tinkering, we got it running and it drove the 4 blocks to the Arizona Inn. Dinner that evening and breakfast the next day was at the Calico Restaurant, across the street from the Hotel. (*Editor's comment; The Wagner's 56' Tbird obviously did not want to leave the Route 66 event, she was at home! Smiles....*)

Sunday morning after breakfast, most of us said goodbye to Route 66, except for Russ and Margie Hanson who drove more of Old Route 66 to Oatman. But not before the Wagner Thunderbird would not start again. However, it only took Don Henderson a few taps of a HAMMER on the top of the carburetor and the old Bird was on the road again. They don't make mechanics like that any more! But then ... they don't make cars like than anymore either.

Thanks to all of you for a fun time. You are all a great group of friends and each of us look forward to more fun times on the Arizona Road. By: Gregg Thurston

Note: The ACTC wants to thank Gregg Thurston for his efforts to organize this event and to have had the ACTC well represented at this 2026 Fun Run Event, great job Gregg!

Enjoying a meal at the Calico Restaurant in Kingman, AZ



Young and older alike enjoyed the events along Route 66



[A Summer Special Article: Ford's Thunderbird and "1st Cousin" the Lincoln/Continental](#)

THE LINCOLN LINK by Jim Mascola
Published April, 2026

(Abbreviated Version to align with this Publication)

The collector car world is as much about the vehicles as it is about the stories behind them. Whether the vehicle was featured in a movie, is part of a celebrity collection, or was owned by a single person or family since new, the stories behind the cars are equally important, and many times more interesting than the vehicle alone. This is certainly the case when it comes to the vehicles that make up **Jim Rodgers' Collection**. Jim is a Lincoln Motor Car Foundation member, so you know he is distinguished and appreciates only the best, and upon entering his garage, you see more than Detroit metal and automobilia; you see vehicles that were with Jim and his family at key moments, seemingly intertwined with his life story. The **gleaming white 1957 Ford Thunderbird** sitting in the center of the garage is the car Jim drove when he was dating his girlfriend (now wife of 59 years). Just feet away from the T-Bird is the beautiful award winning **1934 Lincoln KB LeBaron Convertible** that his father purchased nearly 70 years ago and brought to show condition. Beyond that is **another 1957 Ford Thunderbird Starmist Blue**, a 1987 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Aerocoupe that holds significance to his son, and a **2019 Lincoln Continental Coach Door**. Jim also owns a **1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II** that I'm sure will be of special interest to the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation family, but more about that in a bit. What was perhaps most interesting when speaking with Jim about his collection was that he already has plans to pass his vehicles on to his children and grandchildren, which would then represent four generations from his family enjoying these classic cars. Pulling up to Jim's home on a warm and sunny Arizona day, you first notice the beautiful landscape and paver driveway leading to his home. From there you see attached garages servicing the main house for his daily driver vehicles (although he drives all of his cars, regardless of rarity or value). However, the real showstopper on the property is the detached garage that sits across the driveway from his home. I use the word 'garage' loosely, as the space is impeccably clean, expansive, and larger than many homes. The space is adorned with movie posters, vintage automotive signs, and artwork on the walls. If you are a movie buff, you will be impressed, as the posters range from the mainstream (Gone in 60 Seconds) to more niche productions (License to Drive). It would take several visits to fully enjoy everything Jim has displayed in the garage. Just off of the main garage facility is a room with fantastic natural light connecting his show garage to his workshop, and within the main room you will find on display everything from model cars to the vintage Ford Rotunda dealership sign featuring his 1934 Lincoln KB. It would be hard to pick one favorite item in the room, but the highlight for me was seeing the trophies that his father won while showing the Lincoln KB in the early 1960s. Walking through that space takes you into another large garage bay that features a four-post lift, and to my surprise and delight Jim had a beautiful **100-point 1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II** sitting under a car cover. Jim was quick to pull the cover back and show the gorgeous car, which gleamed in the Arizona sunshine streaming in through the open garage door. He has documents throughout the life of the car, and he showed me a copy of the original sales invoice for the Mark II. With an **invoice date of February 28, 1956**, the selling dealer was Selby Motors in Tucson, and the customer was James K. Wilson. The description on the invoice lists the color combination as beige over light beige leather and medium beige leather, giving the vehicle a timeless and elegant look, befitting the desert southwest location where it was sold new and currently resides. Jim seemingly knows every detail about his vehicles, and he described to me that while the 1956 Mark II was originally sold in Tucson, it found a home in Nogales and resided there for many years. Interestingly, in the early 2000s, his Mark II was previously owned by someone who played an integral part in our Foundation and the publication you are currently reading—none other than the late Mr. Jerry Capizzi. **Jerry's father was Henry Ford's personal attorney, and Jerry was Member Number One for the Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Foundation.** Jerry was a huge supporter of the Foundation, and he donated his extensive Lincoln literature collection to help start the Foundation's reference library. It's safe to say that a Lincoln owned by Jerry would be an amazing example, and this is certainly the case here. Not only is Jim's Mark II in showroom condition, but the unique color combination of beige exterior over a beige / brown interior causes the admirer to pause. While I have seen my fair share of Mark II's over the years, I have never had the pleasure of seeing one in this hue, and I was taken by how elegant the body looks in this striking color combination. This Continental Mark II is not Jim's newest Lincoln acquisition, as that would be his Continental Coach Door, but Jim has only owned his Mark II for a year or so.

Continued on top of Page-15>>>



He acquired it in nearly the same remarkable condition it displays today. Jim was quick to note that the Mark II's high-quality finish is credited to Jerry Capizzi's restoration team.

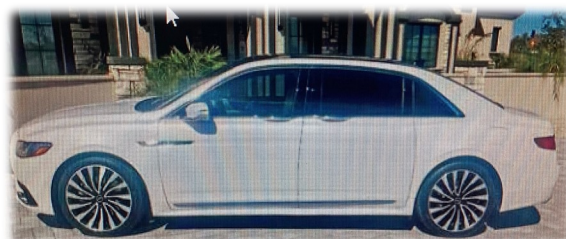
That restoration work was so thorough that Jim needed only to focus on the task of reupholstering the front seat, and ceramic coat detailing, to get it ready for shows and judging. Jim acquired the car from Gene Brown in Denver, as Jim was originally in the process of purchasing a different Mark II from Gene, with Gene waiting for the "Cappi Car" restoration to be completed to keep for himself. However, once the Jerry Capizzi car became available, Gene had already decided to pivot back to his motorcycle collection, and he offered Jim the chance to buy that car as well. Jim ultimately purchased both vehicles, choosing to sell the first Mark II and keep the Jerry Capizzi Mark II for his collection. I think he made the right choice! In mid-January, **Jim showcased his Mark II at the Arizona Concours d'Elegance**, held at the Scottsdale Civic Center. He competed in a formidable class titled "Avant Garde—1930s, '40s, and '50s Visions—From Maverick Minds," which was filled with equally impressive entries from Cadillac, Packard, and other luxury marques. As the judges calculated their scores under a clear Arizona sky, the lawn remained packed with spectators of all ages. While waiting for the results, Jim chatted with me about his collection and some of the other cars on display. Finally, the announcement came: his **Mark II had secured second place in its class**. The judges ceremoniously placed the red ribbon on the hood, hanging just below the iconic Lincoln star. Perhaps even more impressive than the victory itself was what happened—or rather, what didn't happen—before and after the show. While nearly every other participant used a trailer to haul their vehicle to and from the event, Jim would have no part of that. Instead, he drove his Mark II more than 30 miles each way to attend. It is a gesture that undoubtedly would have made David Schultz proud; he famously believed that cars were meant to be driven, not merely trailered from place to place. There was no "David Schultz Long Haul Award" handed out that day in Scottsdale, but if there had been, Jim surely would have taken that home, too.



1934 Lincoln KB LeBaron Convertible



1957 Colonial White Elegant "Tuxedo" T-Bird



2019 Lincoln Continental Coach Door, Limited Edition

Jim's appreciation for the Lincoln brand extends nearly 90 years, as his most recent addition to his collection is a **2019 Lincoln Continental Coach Door, a limited-edition** model produced to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Continental. To build this special vehicle, Lincoln commissioned Cabot Coach Builders to create a fitting successor to Edsel Ford's 1939 original. Starting with a Black Label edition Continental, they added six inches to the wheel-base and outfitted the cabin with appointments befitting the storied Continental nameplate.

Jim searched across the country when looking for his Coach Door Continental and found this example (#46 of 80 produced) on the east coast. After shipping it across the country, Jim was excited to drive the car and has already put a few miles on the odometer since taking delivery. "This vehicle was very much of interest to me, as I was part of the Lincoln team during the time when this vehicle was produced. I recall the excitement when the first Coach Door editions arrived at Lincoln Black Label retailers". That excitement was again present when I opened up the rear hinged door (*a.k.a Suicide Doors not seen on a Ford car since 1971*), and peered into the passenger cabin, with an additional 6 inches of legroom and champagne chiller in the center console. The white platinum metallic Tri-coat over Alpine Venetian leather provides a luxurious look that harkens back to the fabulous Lincolns of the 1960s.



OTHER ACTC INFORMATION TO KNOW

ACTC 2026 Logo Hat Apparel to go on sale in Fall

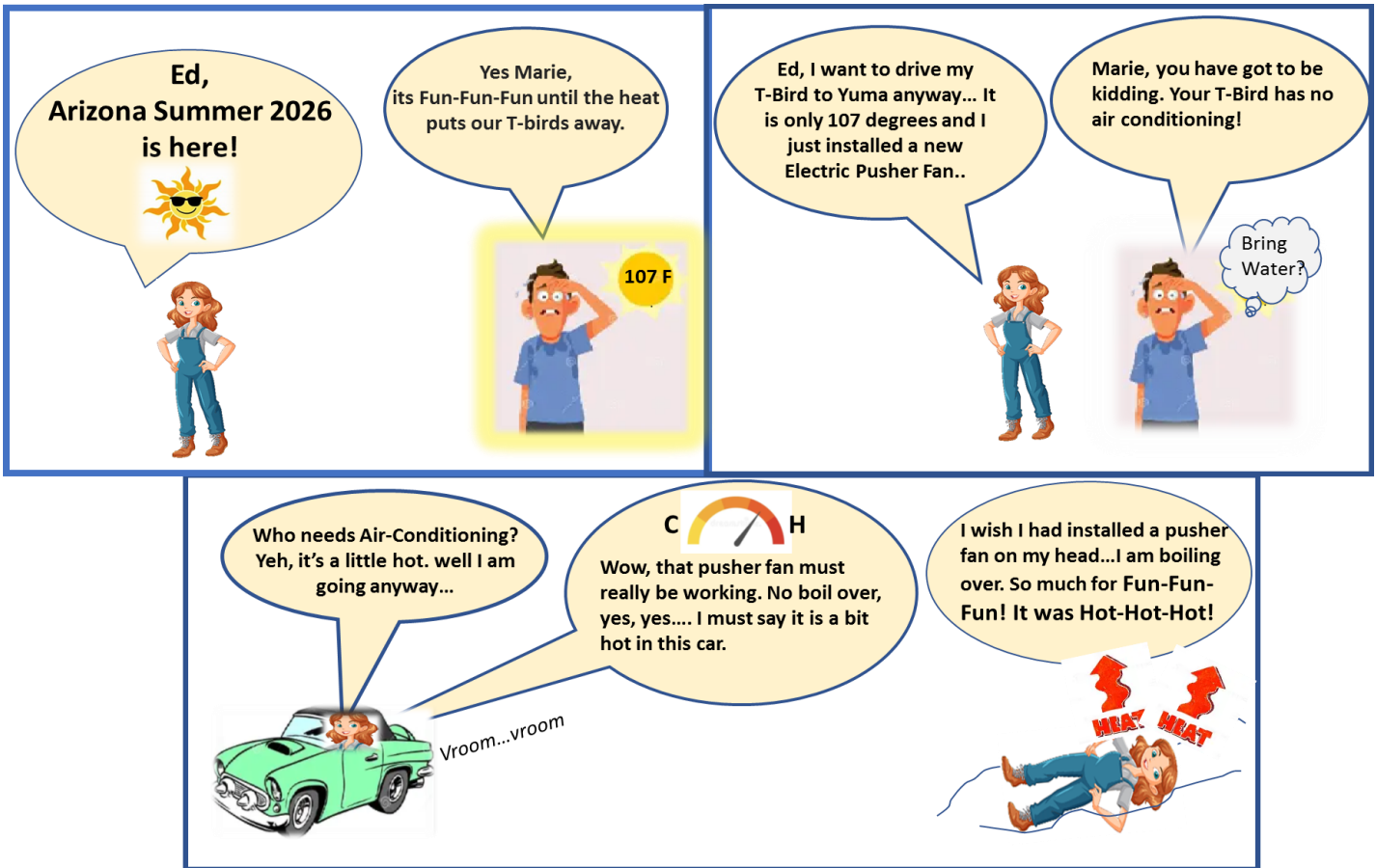
The ACTC’s Board—**Ways and Means** wants to extend a big thank you to all who purchased one or more of these nice T-Shirts. We originally ordered 60 of these shirts back in February, 2025, as of this month, all have been purchased with the exception of the last three. The last three T-Shirts have been 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. **Moving On >>>>**

The **Ways and Means** is working on a possible ACTC Club Logo Hat, so look in late fall-2026 for this offering. So far the ACTC Logo is the preferred hat adornment, see below:



Rough Sample

On the Lighter-side of the Thunderbird



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.



This Area is Intentionally Kept Blank

Request for Newsletter Submissions:

Contact Walt Bonneau: waltbonneau@gmail.com

T-Bird
Stuff

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



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January 23rd 2026

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SPOUSE / OTHER (include last name, if different) _____ SP/SO BIRTHDAY _____

ANNIVERSARY _____ YEAR JOINED _____

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EMAIL _____ SP/SO EMAIL _____ CTCL NO. _____

CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD(S) OWNED _____ COLOR _____ (1955-57 & 2002-05 CLASSIC (RETRO BIRDS))

YEAR _____ COLOR _____

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 _____

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

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



Thunderbird Movie/TV Series, Ads and General Trivia Answers (See Page #08 for the Questions):

- 1.) The Song *Fun, Fun, Fun* was created by the team of Brian Wilson (Music) & Mike Love (Lyrics) from the Beach Boys.
- 2.) The year was Q1-1964, as this hit song reached #5 on the top Billboard 100 hit records (as a single 45 record) selling over 1M copies giving it the highest award of "Platinum" by RIAA.
- 3.) The song was part to the Beach Boys Album "Shut Down" which went Gold by RIAA and reached #7 on a few charts selling nearly 1M copies.
- 4.) The Song defined the Pop Aesthetic "California Myth" period of the 1960's.
- 5.) The lyrics were inspired by Dennis Wilson's life experiences while the lyrics were also influenced by Chuck Berry's early 1964 Song Nadine.



New Membership Request;

Contact Judy Thompson

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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





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