



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 07 — Sept., 2026

CTCI-2025 Gold Medallion Winner

September Issue

This months Featured T-Bird

A good friend of ours was downsizing and had been trying to convince me to be the next caretaker of his 1957 Thunderbird. He had owned it for over twenty years, and wanted it to go to someone he knew would take care of it. Last March we were out for dinner with friends when my Wife, Cathie, said, "You really should get the TBird." Our friend chimed in, "Just go ahead and do it!" A few days later we drove to Fountain Hills, picked up the T-Bird and she was ours. We have enjoyed driving it to our first ACTC meetings and around town and were surprised by how many people gave us a thumbs up or rolled down their window at a traffic light to compliment the car. Everywhere we stop, folks come over to talk and comment on how nice she looks. It brings smiles to many faces.

When we brought her home, the mileage was 22,385. She was extremely well maintained and kept in a climate controlled garage, so there was little maintenance work for us to do other than chase down a couple of leaks and replace the cushion material inside of the seats. The previous owner had put in a larger aluminum radiator and fan to better handle the Arizona heat, along with front disc brakes. Otherwise, it is in its original configuration and everything works. A well-done restoration changed the paint and interior colors at some point, although we have been unable to determine when this was done.

We joined ACTC right after obtaining the Thunderbird. The high point of our membership so far was the caravan to North Scottsdale to see Alan Travis' collection of pre-1916 autos and motorcycles. His presentation provided a fascinating look into early motoring. We are looking forward to many years of fun and adventure with the Thunderbird. A name had to be chosen of course, and she has been christened "Scarlett".

A little more history; Scarlett was built at the Dearborn Assembly facility and delivered to Jackson-Goldie Ford in Oakland, California. The factory invoice is dated July 2, 1957. We have the name of the person who originally purchased/owned the car for the next few decades.



Our friend from whom we bought the car said that the story he got from the shop where he bought the car was, that the original owner lived in Huntington Beach and bought it as a hobby car. He only drove it to car shows and the occasional road rally or tour. At some point he lived in Las Vegas and the car was licensed there, then it went back to California. He put it up as collateral for the (very expensive) total restoration of an early motorcycle. When he could not pay for the motorcycle a couple of years later, the shop kept the Thunderbird but never titled it. Our friend bought it from that shop. You our research about Scarlett continues...

Submitted by: Robert & Kathy Faerber





From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer

Fellow ACTC T-Birders,

Well as I stated last month, summer is still here and it's been far too long. And still no rain. Everywhere else it's raining except over my house. I must have an invisible bubble that no rain can penetrate it. So, Ellen and I are headed to Colorado Springs in early August, then onto California visiting family and doing the beach thing. I'll bet we'll get rain there...

Since not much of anything happened since my last message, the convention still had a few challenges due in part as part to the on-going dispute. VTCI has taken over the entire convention in Flagstaff and the planning of it is now complete. Those of you that registered through CTCI should have received your refund back by now. If so, you should of by now re-registered through VTCI as a member of VTCI per Bob's email sent out on 6/19/26. and the ACTC Summer Newsletter. Additional info on the convention and CTCI will be covered further on in this newsletter. Due to the convention, there will be no ACTC meeting in September but their is a board meeting set up for 9/3 via Zoom in which, we will be discussing upcoming events for the remainder of this year, as well as discussions concerning existing board member positions and hopefully new board members that want to step up and contribute.

As I stated in the last newsletter on August 15th there 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. The Laps for Charity at the Phoenix Raceway sponsored by NASCAR on Saturday October 3rd that Walt has been working on is now sold out. We reached the maximum entries for the event and can't wait to get our little birds out on the racetrack and run some laps behind an official NASCAR pace car. Walt will have additional info included in this newsletter. The board has been informed by way of email from Judy Thompson that we have new members that joined recently and will be mentioned who they are in this newsletter. **That's great news!** The best to you all, Doug

With that in mind I offer you this thought:

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within." —Elisabeth Kubler-Ross—



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>>>



For sale a very nice **1956 T-Bird Rear Tail Wall Lamp**. Purchased at the Barrett Jackson Auction for around \$300.00. I am asking \$120.00. The Lamp is in very good condition and looking for a new home.

Contact Jacki McKee at:

PH: (602)-361-4860

Email: jackimck@icloud.com



1957 Thunderbird New and Used Parts for Sale:

Purchased my '57 D-code T-Bird in 2002. At the time of purchase I had only driven the car on residential streets. After driving on I-10 I believed the car was not shifting into 3 gear because the cruising RPM was fairly high at 65 to 70 mph. I took the car to a local shop and the shop owner convinced me to replace the Ford-O-Matic with a Ford Automatic Overdrive transmission. I somewhat regret that change because frame crossmember needed to be modified to receive the aft "AOD" transmission mount. The car runs fine with the "AOD" transmission but the "need for speed" didn't really justify the change. Now I have the original Ford-O-Matic transmission and associated hardware just "laying around" taking up space. I would like to sell these parts to anyone who can use them and I'm asking amounts (negotiable) listed shown below. (See Page-15 for pictures of each part).

- ⇒ Transmission, torque converter, bell housing, drive shaft, sheet metal housing covers, associated tubing, carburetor "kick-down" rod--\$225.00
- ⇒ Autolite 4bbl Carburetor--\$75.00
- ⇒ Brand new double brake master cylinder (purchased from CASCO) --\$60.00
- ⇒ (2) fuel pumps--\$60.00
- ⇒ Vacuum wiper motor--\$25.00
- ⇒ Battery holder--\$15.00
- ⇒ Starter motor--\$25.00

All these parts were operational when removed from the car but are sold "as-is"; no warranty implied. The starter motor was replaced by a newer model starter that was compatible with the Ford AOD transmission. The fuel pumps were replaced by an electric fuel pump. Price reduction will be considered if all parts are purchased together. Also, if purchased together seller will offer 50% of sale price as a donation to the ACTC.

Will deliver within 60 mile radius of Chandler AZ; otherwise purchaser needs to arrange shipping of the parts.

Contact: Fred Borns, Ph: 480-403-1190 or fborns@cox.net



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!

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

Bob Michele @ 602-768-5710

Email: rmich1957@gmail.com



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

Keeping Your T-Bird Cooler with an Optional Electric Fan

By: Walt Bonneau (Input from Don Henderson & Jim Cook)

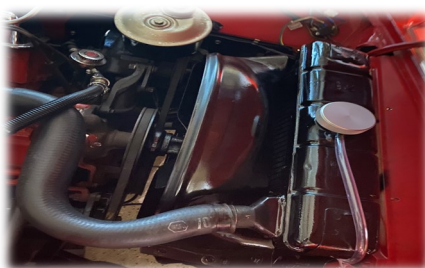
If you have owned or have driven a T-Bird especially when equipped with the 312 CID engine. You might notice that these engines have an inherent ability to operate on the higher side of the temperature gauge. This is especially true on hot days. The rise in engine heat is most prevalent when idling for 5-10 minutes in above 95F degree ambient temperatures. When it comes to these engines being equipped with an after-market air conditioning system, the problem increases and boil overs often occur while idling for a period of time. It is beyond the scope of this article to explain why these engines operate a bit hotter than many other engines of the 50's era. Understand that in general, engine over heating was much more common in the 50's—60's cars from most manufacturers than in today's cars.

A Solution at Hand:

It is important to ensure that your T-Bird's cooling system components are ALL functioning to Ford's Specifications. If so, the radiator's water should be a blend of 50/50 or 60/40 Antifreeze/water, a thermostat rated at 160-180F degrees, optimum in the Southwest a 170F degree big flow thermostat. A good working water pump where water can be seen in the top filler hole of the radiator as circulating moderately (once the thermostat opens). Now you should verify that the engine's is equipped with a standard cooling fan containing either an original 4 blade or optional 5 blade type. The fav is to be accompanied by the original fan stroud. For reliability, be sure all the cooling systems holes are also in good condition. Having no leaks. Yes, adding a AMES water flow spacer may also help (*Not easy to come by these days*).

Having the above in good working order, allows us T-Bird owners to take advantage of today's commonly used integral cooling component, the electric fan. There are two types: the "Pusher" and the "Puller" fan.

Most engine experts make claim that a Puller Fan configuration is 10% more efficient at moving air than the Pusher Fan configuration. >>>



Shroud and 4-Blade Fan

Continued on top of Page-06>>>

Historical Facts

Why did Ford Add Side Fender Door Vents onto the 56 & 57 T-Bird? ?

By Walt Bonneau with supporting facts from Google/AI

There has been much mystery and misunderstandings about the 56-57' added fender door vents. This article brings to light an interesting history behind these air vents.

By late 1955, Ford had received sufficient ventilation complaints from 1955 T-Bird owners. Who became negative about the cabin of the car, attributed to the cabin becoming quite warm, especially in the late summer months when the hardtop was installed. This was due to the Y-Block V8 engine producing plenty of heat that eventually transferred into the car's cabin. Ford's engineers had a few options to combat the heat problem. They decided on engineering side front fender rectangular door air vents.



The 1956 and 1957 models featured rectangular vent doors, as seen above. Inside the cabin on each side of the foot "Kick Panel" areas, is a chrome-levered grill panel where the outside door vents are manually opened and closed to help cool the cabin. It was later discovered that reversing the internal Kick Panel grill fins so they pointed forward resulted in better air-flow while keeping the passengers' legs much cooler- more on this in the article.

On a funny note: These side door vents when open are not well understood by most born after 1960. Below are examples, that I for one have heard directly by attendees at car shows and by the general public on the street:

- ⇒ Sir, you have left your gas filler door open.
- ⇒ Is that where the car plugs into the charger? (My favorite)
- ⇒ Sir are those used to slow the car?
- ⇒ I think you left your engine side access panel open.
- ⇒ Are those used to signal for L & R turns?

Continued on top of Page-05>>>



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

Ford's Engineering Solution

For the 1956 model year, Ford engineers overhauled the cabin's fresh-air intake system. Instead of relying solely on cowl vents located at the base of the windshield (as used in 1955 model). Ford cut rectangular fresh air vent doors directly into the front fenders, positioned just behind the front wheel openings. These manually operated vents were linked to internal duct boxes (*See exploded diagram below*), that directed large volumes of outside air straight passenger footwells. Owners could open or close the vent doors using the manual lever inside the cabin vent chrome grill, significantly improving passenger comfort, in most situations. As part of the design approach these new Ford applied side air vents were entitled "Aero Detail". As described; inside these fenders ducts were chrome slats on the grill plates fitted to the kick panels. Ford had discovered that pointing the Chrome grill stats toward the rear of the car was less effective than first thought. So, they looked at air flow dynamics and determined that reversing the direction of the slats/fins, pointing them forward toward the firewall was more beneficial. Now the forced outside air from the door scoop design, dramatically improved cabin air-circulation while reducing the inside temperature by simply directing cooler air onto the surface of the firewall and then into the cabin. This was a bit counter-intuitive. So, did this cooling fix actually work? Absolutely, if the outside ambient temperatures did not exceed 95 degrees F. Above 95 degrees F, the outside hot directed air simply mixed with the hot firewall convection air. Thereby, mixing and pushing the warm/hot air around the cabin providing very little relief to the passengers. Be sure that your chrome grill vent slats/Fins are pointing toward the firewall. It is known that some have been installed 180 degrees.

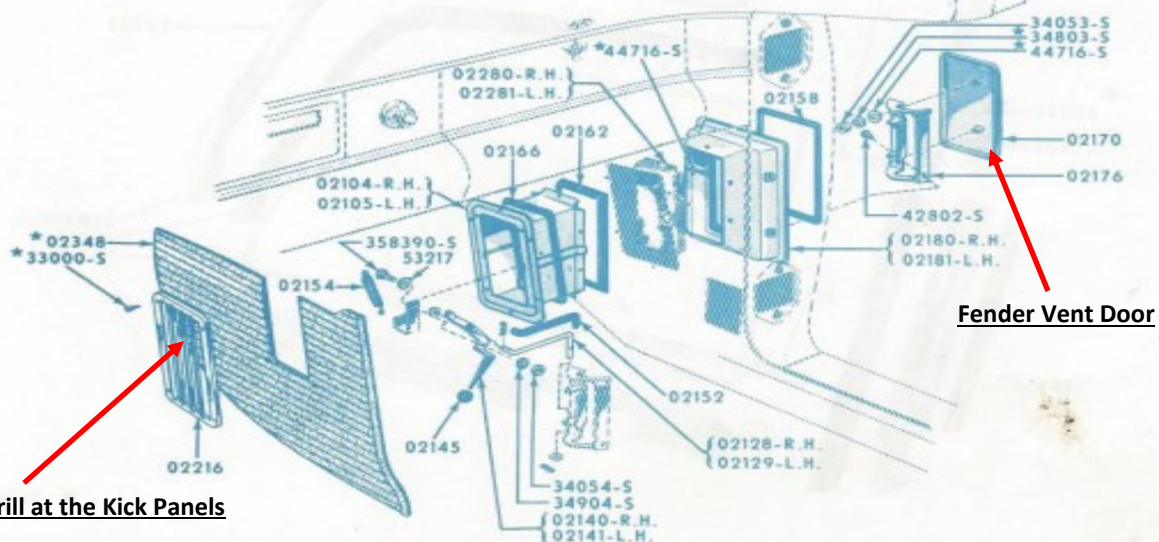
Noting: The firewall in 95-100 degree F ambient temperatures with 15-20 minutes of operating time, the inside of the firewall can reach 120-130 degrees F. This heat is radiated right into the cabin.

These side door vents seem to be an ingenious design by the Ford engineers to address the T-Bird's cabin heat issues why in fact Ford did not offer factor air-conditioning . The truth is, Studebaker Corporation had applied car side fender door vents starting in 1953 on it's Coupes/Hawks models. (See the picture below right of such a 1953 Studebaker Hawk). Do you think Ford engineers were influenced by the 1953/54 Hawk?

Studebaker 54' Side Vent/Grill



1956-57 T-Bird Side Fender Vent Door Exploded Drawing



Chrome Grill at the Kick Panels

Fender Vent Door

1956/57 COWL SIDE VENTILATOR & RELATED PARTS



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

However, a Pusher Fan can be mounted in a manner that 95% conceals the added electric fan. Often the Puller Fan configuration requires removal of the Water Pump mounted fan and or an entirely new Fan shroud assembly.

So, what is a Puller Fan configuration? That is a fan mounted on the engine side of the radiator pulling air through the radiator. Whereby, a Pusher Fan configuration is mounted on the cars bumper side of the radiator or right behind the grill assembly, pushing air into and through the radiator. Much of the installation for each type of configuration is the same. Therefore, this article will use the Pusher Fan configuration for the most part.

What are the compounds of an electric fan? The correct choice in electric fan type and size. You would be hard pressed to install such a fan larger than 17" in diameter into a 55-57 T-Bird have a radiator horizontal dimension of 21 inches. This article uses a single fan opposed to a dual fan unit. This is a users choice without much difference in air movement performance. This example; using a **Derale P/N 18217 17"** two speed fan rated at 1,800 to 2400CFM (380 watts). *Derale is one brand of the multiple choices in such fan vendors you might consider, estimated Price \$200-300.00.*

(Note: *If your car is equipped with the factory 30 Amp/380 watts generator and you are running an electronic fuel pump with the E-fan on high speed along with an electronic ignition, your total power drain is 24-25Amps) or approx.*

Fan Specifications (Blue)/Optional Components (Purple):

- Mounts as a Pusher or Puller without flipping blade or switching motor leads
- State-of-the-art symmetrical design, fits well for near square radiator designs like the T-Birds.
- High Output 265 watt 2 speed motor (two separate turn-on sources required for 2 speed operation)
- 2400 CFM on high speed / 1800 CFM on low speed
- Engine Temperature Sensor with adapter kit (Optional)
- 25Amp Relay Unit with Negative terminal switch control (Optional)
- Fan Controller Module by Dakota Digital (Optional), Don't need if you manually wire to a on and off under dash switch.
- Mounting Kit with Ratchet Fittings (Optional Kit), Necessary to ensure a solid mount installation result.
- 1.0 ft of red 16 AWG, 5.0 ft of Black 16 AWG braided wire, 3-4.0 ft of 12 AWG wire (25 Amps rating) in Black and Red

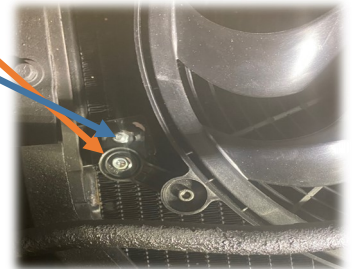


Temperature Sensor Kit



25 AMP Fan Relay Component

Ratchet Mounts
with Fabricated
Brackets Fan Relay
Component



E-Fan Installation Procedure:

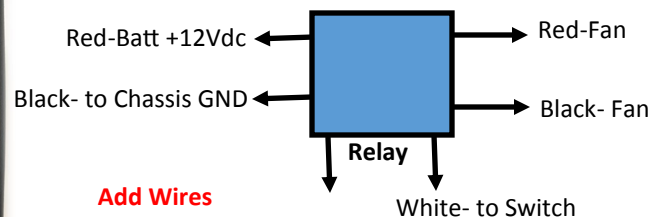
- ⇒ Totally empty the Radiator of all water/Fluids using the radiators integrated Screw Cock value,
- ⇒ Remove the radiator hoses and shroud followed by the transmission lines to radiator (Plug-off the lines) (*Automatic Trans*),
- ⇒ Remove (bolts) from the radiator body mounting and carefully lift out, than flush clean with garden hose,
- ⇒ Lay radiator on flat surface to size/plan for the fan mounting bracket fabrication and final layout (leave 1/2" space to all edges),
- ⇒ Fabricate Aluminum brackets as measured/per your mounting plan, connect via bolts with lock washers Fab to ratchet mounts and install on radiator front (*facing the grill side*). Note: *There should be a 1/8-1/4' gap between fan mount to Radiator surface.*
- ⇒ Reinstall the radiator and shroud followed by Trans lines and lower & Upper holes. (You might want to have painted them first?)
- ⇒ Mount Relay to driver-side inner-fender, wire to Fan (add 25 Amp inline fuse, install Toggle switch, add inline fuse @ 3.5Amp
- ⇒ Test that fan turns on and off via switch (No shorts), (See relay wiring chart below),
- ⇒ Fill radiator with 50/50 antifreeze about 1.0" below the overflow tube vent (unless you add a overflow catch bottle),
- ⇒ Start engine, check for leaks, none, test drive the car ensuing that you cycle the heater system and the thermostat opens. Enjoy!



Delray E-Fan mounted behind 57" T-Bird



Optional Fan Controller



ACTC Events Official Calendar

Sat. Oct. 03, 2026 — NASCAR/Phoenix Raceway ACTC—"Laps for Charity" Event (Sold-Out but accepting standbys), See event flyer)

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.

October 9-10th: Payson Car Show Event (go online)

Sun. Nov. XX, 2026 — ACTC Meeting /Or Special Event (Still in works)

(Nov. 15th is Myrna's 90th Birthday Party)...see mailed invitations

Thursday Nov. 26, 2026 — Fountain Hills Day Parade "250th

Happy Birthday America!" Start Time is 9:30AM , parade cars staged 30-40 mins in advance. **WE NEED 6-7 —T-BIRDS TO SIGN-UP!** No cost to park and or to be in the parade. This year will be their 42nd Parada Event. For more details and to sign-up please call or email Gregg Thurston @ ThurstonFamily@yahoo.com.



Dec. 12, 2026— Annual ACTC Christmas Party! Get ready to sign-up.

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



Saturday—March 06, 2027 — The Annual Casa Grande Fly-in and Vintage Car Show

A new event for our club to consider: This is an informal car show event that has been attended by 60-80 Classic/Vintage cars. The do not offer judging but, offer plenty of fun. There is no charge (Small donation appreciated) if you bring a classic/vintage car. Fellow ACTC member Fred Borns will be coordinating the event. FYI, there is RV camping!

January– May 2027 ACTC EVENTS: Coming to a meeting near you!

Exciting News: Your ACTC The Board and Planning Committee are working on New ACTC Events for the 2027 calendar year. These events will include T-Bird Driving Mini-tours and Good Eats. Stay tuned to the October and November, 2026 Chatter Newsletter for more details of upcoming ACTC Events.



Questions of the Month:

- 1.) What USA president owned a Thunderbird?
- 2.) What model of Thunderbird did he own?
- 3.) What president's inauguration parade consisted of 50 special edition cars with white body, blue top and red, white and blue interior?
- 4.) What Automotive company supplied these parade vehicles and what models /year were they?
- 5.) Which car / model did this president (mentioned above), drive just before a sad historical event occurred?

Thunderbird Movies, TV Series, Advertisements & General Trivia

See answers on page-16>>>



Early Fall 2026 Events

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



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 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.

Fee: \$30.00 Donation plus \$25.00 Winner Circle Professional photograph and \$3.00 club fee (\$58.00 ACTC Club Package). Please pay Walt Bonneau (See ACTC Members Book) \$10.00 deposit to hold your position by July 30th, mailed to Walt Bonneau and noted on check Phoenix Race Way Laps for Charity.

Now Accepting Standby RESERVATIONS Only! This has been a popular event choice for the ACTC.

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 7AM—8AM			
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			
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 Out 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)			





September

Name	Date
Barb Blair	09/03
Effie Duquette	09/03
David Williams	09/04
Kerry Pokorski	09/07
Casey Newcomb	09/15
Karen Arredondo	09/15
Troy Homewood	09/15
Dave Burklund	09/19
Rosemary Henderson	09/20
Shirley Goldman	09/23
Robert Faerber	09/24

Welcome To Our Newest ACTC Members!

Fred & Margaret Borns Chandler, AZ
Stewart Hall Phoenix, AZ

Notice: If any relatively new ACTC member would like to have a collection of CTCI "Early Bird's" quarterly magazines covering the last five years, please contact:

Rie Buzby
Ph: (602) -793-4214
(First come first served)!



September

Name	Date
Roger & Cosette Ingram	09/01

September of 1955 Event: Ford Motor Company launches it's "Crash Safety Program"

Ford staged the first [National Safety Forum](#) at Dearborn, MI race-track. In front of witnesses, two 1955 Ford Fairlanes traveling at 25-30 mph being guided by a first production 1955 T-Bird, crashed head-on. Demonstrating the new "Lifeguard Design" safety features such as: Seat belts, Padded Dash & Visors, Deep-dish steering wheel and crash proof door locks. The occupants were early "crash dummies" named FERD-1 and 2. This was Ford's first attempt at improved automobile safety since safety glass was installed in the 1927 Model-T and beyond. The test yielded proof of success, both dummies only suffered bruising.



The Lifeguard safety option was sold in Ford Sedans and T-Birds for the 1956 & 57 models as an option, at a price lower than Ford's cost. Only 10-12% ordered this option. Safety was ??



Minutes of the September 03, 2026 ACTC Board Meeting

In Attendance:

Doug Shearer, Walt Bonneau, Bob Michele, Chuck Thompson, Myrna Foster, (Jim Rogers-absent)
Five of the Six Board member present established an official Quorum.

Meeting started at 10:05am via a ZOOM meeting event

The Agenda Items to be discussed are as follows by all Board members:

1.) Remaining Planned/Scheduled Meetings/Events for 2026 (Walt & Bob input):

- ♦ Sept. 5th, ACTC September Newsletter Released
- ♦ Sept. 9-13th The Annual Flagstaff Thunderbird Convention
- ♦ October 3rd: NASCAR Laps for Charity in Avondale, AZ
- ♦ October 9-10th: Payson Car Show
- ♦ October 18th: ACTC Official Membership Meeting (Return from Summer Break)
- ♦ November 15th: (Myrna's 90th Birthday Event) 5-9pm at the Elks Lodge 32nd between Thunderbird & Greenbrier business casual dress
- ♦ December 12th: ACTC Christmas Party (4pm-8pm) at the American Legion
- ♦ *Note: It was suggested we talk to the ELK's Manager about future ACTC meetings accommodations.*

2.) What meetings/events should be planned for 2027

General Planning Approach for 2027 (4-5 ACTC Meetings and 5 Special Events Chuck Input)), is the Plan:

January: ACTC Meeting

February: Special Event

March: ACTC Meeting

April: Special Event

May: ACTC Meeting (Summer Break Starts for June-August)

Sept: ACTC Meeting (Welcome Back Membership Meeting)

October: Special Event

November: ACTC Meeting

December: ACTC XMAS Party

Note: Possibly Exchange one ACTC Meeting to another Special Event.

January XX: ACTC Meeting @ American Legion

February XX: Tech Day-2027

March 06, 2027 — The Annual Casa Grande Fly-in and Vintage Car Show

March XX: ACTC Meeting

April: Special Event is open

May: The first weekend in May Route 66 annual event.

May 15th: ACTC Meeting and start of the Summer Break and return on September.



4.) Still trying to get volunteers for Nominating Chairperson plus members (Doug Input)

- ♦ Looking a alternative methods to get these volunteers

5.) Also looking at getting volunteers to assist in planning and organizing Special Events

- ♦ Possibly make calls to encourage membership to volunteer

6.) General: No other Board input.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20pm

Submitted by Secretary Myrna Foster



VTCI Annual Convention in Flagstaff, AZ September 9th-13th, 2026

Most know; this convention was originally intended to be jointly hosted by the **VTCI** and **CTCI**. Unfortunately, circumstances made it difficult for the CTCI organization to follow through with their commitment to this event. Therefore VTCI took over the complete management of the convention. Nevertheless, our own ACTC club has mustarded up over a dozen members in a nice representation with 5 of the ACTC cars attending. We hope to enjoy much cooler weather while staying at a very nice accommodations (Little America Resort). There were 12 of our ACTC members and five cars entered in the various judging categories.

Walt & Lynne Bonneau (57' T-Bird), Doug & Ellen Shearer (57' T-Bird), Chuck & Judy Thompson (57' T-Bird), Sheri Dohm (57'), Don Henderson, Rick & Maria Bialy, and Jennifer and Bret (57' T-Bird) .

The total registered attendance as of August 27th was over 190 persons with clubs from all over the Southwest District #6 being represented. What a great time this will be to meet other Thunderbird enthusiast and share all the experiences and ownership knowledge. Yes, multiple generations of T-Birds will be present with +9 generations being on display (in total +85 cars). This truly gives the city of Flagstaff especially the downtown a parade of 1950-2005 T-Birds showing up every where. What an added tribute to Route 66's 100th anniversary.

**The actual coverage of this event will be published in the October, 2026
ACTC Chatter Newsletter!**



A Special Event in San Diego



There have been multiple request by members of our club to offer occasional information about the other Classic Thunderbird clubs, especially within our club's regional District. This article is a first for our Chatter Newsletter. Covering an event held by the San Diego Classic Thunderbird Club (SDCTC), (CTCI Chapter #24 in Region).

This event was held on August 23, 2026 and hosted by **Gillie's Garage** in the Point Loma/Marina district.

I was invited by the **Vice President of the Club Geoff** ("Jeff") Wahl and Treasurer Shelly Bowen to attend this event and to offer a 15-20 minute presentation on our clubs events.

Background: The **San Diego Classic Thunderbird Club** pre-dates our club by 2-3 years as a CTCI Chapter organization established in 1969. The presently they have +85 members and +40 Baby T-Birds. The club offers an array of events throughout the year since, their climate is a bit more conducive than ours at least during the Summer months. The SDCT-Club has held steady in membership with a small up-tick this last 18 months. As with our club, they have an array of 55', 56', 57's and 2-3 Retro Birds and even one 65' "Flair" Bird. Their membership ranges in age from 30-90 years of age.

Below are pictures from the event held at a really car cool facility called **Gillie's Auto Lounge/Garage** located in the Point Loma/Sports Area area. Gillie's is a Vintage and Exotic car storage boutique facility with a Lounge where car people can converse with others having similar vintage car history. A total of 40 members attended and 15 T-Birds. **Representing the ACTC;** I also showed my 57' Tbird. It was really appreciative of the number of people at random stopped to take pictures of the cars and to talk with us. These T-Bird's truly brought smiles to the faces of many that day!

By: Walt & Lynne Bonneau



OTHER ACTC INFORMATION TO KNOW

No Meeting Minutes for September, 2026 due to the Annual Convention in Flagstaff.

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

Wow! The Summer is coming to a close and sure starting to enjoy the cooler temperatures.



Hey Ed, I sure would like to take a drive north to the hills in my T-bird, want to come?

Maria ok, it is still warm but, as long as we are back by 5:00pm, I have a dinner engagement...



Ed, I will meet you at my car in 10 minutes.



Get-in and we are off. I know the way so, not to be concerned.



Vroom...vroom

Why did you stop and throw out your spare tire into the woods?



Crazy??

The truth, I am a bit lost!



Well, as they say; Where there is a wheel, there is a way!





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 2025 Committee Members](#)



BLANK SECTION

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.

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Continued from page-03<<

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FORMS, NEWS, EVENTS & MISC. INFORMATION



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YEAR _____ COLOR _____

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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 _____

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**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 #07 for the Questions):

- 1.) President John F. Kennedy.
- 2.) A 1961 Convertible Corinthian White Thunderbird "Bullet/Rocket" Bird. >>>>>>>>>>
- 3.) The January, 1961 President John F. Kennedy's Inauguration parade in Wash D.C..
- 4.) Ford Motor Company produced 50 Special Edition 1961 White Thunderbird Convertibles for the parade, carrying several invited dignitaries.
- 5.) His own purchased 1961 Convertible Thunderbird that he very much enjoyed driving.



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

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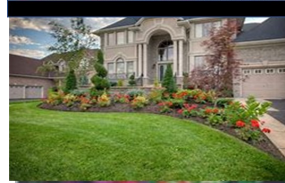
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