



ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 08 — October, 2026

CTCI-2025 Gold Medallion

This months Featured T-Bird

October Issue

My 1957 T-Bird is Colonial White and now with a hardtop with those cool porthole windows. I drove a 57' in mid-1958 and told myself "One day I'm going to have one of these". So, a 57' had become my "always" dream car. It surely didn't hurt anything that my husband was a CAR guy. Over the years he had a 56' Chevy Bel Air, a 62' Corvette, a 65' Pontiac GTO (Tri-power) and a 69' Corvette 427 Stingray. My T-bird was my birthday present to myself for my 75th birthday.

I found this one within my budget online at Gateway Classic Cars, the car was located in Orlando, Florida. So, I bought it and had it delivered to my door step. Oh what a day! I then proceeded looking for a club, I don't remember how I found the ACTC, but joined in Sept. of 2018. I knew since my car guy was gone, I had to have resources and what better than joining the ACTC. Having other T-Bird enthusiast who range from very technical to simply wanting to socialize and talk T-Bird has been fun and helpful. I have totally enjoyed having my Tbird these years. I've done parades, a couple of car shows but, didn't feel I could really trust her on some of the longer road trips the club has done. Didn't want to be a burden if my car broke down in Podunk, USA! LoL

A little history about my car outside of the fact it spent some time in Florida. I don't think my car has ever had a total restoration. I do know that it has had quite a few repairs and one of the repair persons had commented to me that some of the repairs applied had used band-aid solutions, meaning not done right?



When I got her, she had a black ragtop only. Ken Falkenberry found and sold me a white hardtop with porthole windows that matched my Colonial White car.

Well a few crazy items were added such as: She has on her tire valve stems black dice with rhinestone pips. She came to me with white fuzzy dice on the rear view mirror. I ordered some black fuzzy dice, went to Hobby Lobby and bought some rhinestones, glued them on my black dice and now have something that marks my Tbird from other Colonial White 57's. My personnel touch added!

Submitted By: Rie Buzby





From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: *Douglas Shearer*
Fellow ACTC T-Birders,

Summer is finally out of here. Back to weather that I can tolerate. As I mentioned in my last article, Ellen and I went to Colorado Springs, then over the Rockies through Aspen down into Utah then went past Sin City into California to visit her cousin. The ride through various canyons was incredible. Such beautiful country. I recommend that trip to anyone.

The Convention up in Flagstaff was a success and the weather was excellent. VTCI did admirable job taking over the reins from CTCI. Our club did pretty well in the judging of the cars. Bob and Kathy Michele got a nice 2nd Place trophy for their 2005 (50th Anniversary Cashmere Retro). As a side note there were roughly 20+ retro's entered. Walt and Lynne Bonneau took second place in in Primary Original Class—Overall for their 'Flame Red 57'. Pictures of the event are in this newsletter. We had a very nice time being together and meeting old and new friends and of course talking about T-Birds of all generations. Next years Regional will be in Latham, NY. near the NY capitol, Albany. Region-1 Chapter and CTCI will be hosting. The next issue of the Early Bird will have further info on the conference, as well as the 2026 Newsletter Awards, so look for your copy and stay tuned.

Just recently, 11 members got back from "The Run to The Pines" car show up in Pine Top. Wow what a show. Over the top for me. Our members did very well, in the category of Pre-1973 Thunderbirds. See the event's summary in this newsletter. A stand-out; Jennifer Kiley's 57' T-Bird came home with two awards: Woman' Choice and 1st Place for Pre 1973 Thunderbirds. Considering there were 500 cars at this show. In summary a wonderful event.

We had a ACTC Board Zoom meeting on 9/3 in which we discussed events for the remainder of this year. Our upcoming face-to face meeting is on 10/18 at the American Legion. Bob M's meeting survey will be highlights at the Oct. 18th meeting. Looking forward to new events being planned as the summer if finally out of here. The Laps for Charity at the Phoenix Raceway sponsored by NASCAR was on Oct. 3rd. Walt will have additional info included in this newsletter. With that in mind, I offer you this thought: "The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have. "Norman Vincent Peale"



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>>>



Tech Facts

Keeping Your T-Bird's Doors aligned for easy open and close

By: Walt Bonneau (Input from Don Henderson)

One of the most common 55-57' T-Bird issue is door alignment and easy push button open and close behavior. This article addresses several aspects of aligning your doors and making the open and close feel like new. First off, there are multiple alignment issues that compound getting these doors correct. You must be patient or this project becomes a frustrating task for sure. Tolerances are only 1/8 inch in achieving the goal of aligning these doors to look and work correctly.

The components involved are the following:

- 1.) Hinge top and bottom three bolt door alignment/support brackets.
- 2.) The hinge king-pins
- 3.) The correctness of the "A" Pilar door jam
- 4.) The B" Pilar Striker Plate
- 5.) The "Door Latch Assembly"
- 6.) The Striker Plate Adjustment Spacers/Shims

First step, is to look at your door and determine what is wrong. Start with opening the door and gently lifting it up and pushing it down to see if the King Pins are worn out. There should be very little to no up or down movement. If there is noticeable movement, replace the king pins that allow the doors to swing open without sagging. Replacing these is beyond this articles coverage.

Step Two, If the door does not fit correctly its time to check alignment. There should be 1/8" seam symmetrically all around the door. The bottom of the door should not protrude outward on either corner (more than 1/8" is too much) and the top of the door should align to the rear quarter panel (top to top). If not, the inside door upholstery and weather seal must be removed to expose the door hinge adjustment brackets. The specialized tools below are necessary to remove the door handles and window handles. Once removed, the door panel screws are removed including the lock



Door Panel & Handles Removal
Tools



Correct Door Alignment

Continued on top of Page-06>>>

Historical Facts

The Name Thunderbird is so coupled to Arizona and the ACTC

By Walt Bonneau with Thunderbird Field II Veterans Info.

In past newsletters of 2025, the subject of selecting a name and the involved process Ford went through to find the right name for their new Personal Sporty Luxury car was quite involved. Remember, this all new car was to set Ford on a new path of design and styling to send a much needed message to the public; that Ford was not a boring car company. Well we all know that name became the Thunderbird. What most do not know about the name Thunderbird and how it tied right back into Scottsdale, AZ.

Scottsdale Airport was not always referred to by that name. It was originally called **Thunderbird Field II** which was founded June, 1942. during the WWII Era in a isolated desert area north of the city limits to train U.S. Army Corps pilots. They graduated more than 5,500 pilots before closing down in late 1944 as the war wound down.

The **Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial** was established in 2014 is quite active today at the airfield in Scottsdale. Remembering the dozens of lost pilots during WWII and pilots from other U.S. wars and conflicts.

Between 1945-1965 the field was sold to Arizona State Teachers College (ASU). A trade school and aviation program operated on the southside of the airfield until 1951. In 1953 the property was sold to the Arizona Conference of Seventh Day Adventist. Establishing the Thunderbird academy, using former barracks as class rooms. While also training Missionary pilots.

In July, 1966 the city of Scottsdale bought the airfield for \$750,000. They formally opened the air strip as the Municipal Airport of Scottsdale in 1967.

Airpark Growth: Surrounding land was zoned for a clean industrial park in 1963/1966, sparking the creation of the massive Scottsdale Airpark employment center. Today, it operates as one of the busiest single-runway general aviation airports in the United States, driving billions in regional economic impact.

Remember in 1944 the U.S. Air Force did not exist, it was founded in 1947. as a independent military branch. As the US Air Force developed, it created the 3600th **precision demonstration unit**. Their first performance was on June, 08th, 1953 at the Arizona's Luke Air Force Base flying **F-84G Thunder-jets**.

Continued on top of Page-05>>>



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

The U.S. Air Force precision demonstration unit's chosen name was not directly associated with the final selection of the unit being called the Thunderbirds. However, Phoenix's Thunderbird RD, Thunderbird School of Management were named after Thunderbird Air field I & II. Thunderbird Air Field I was located near 59th Ave. in Glendale, AZ and was established right before Thunderbird Air Field-II in today's Scottsdale airport/tech park. The US Air force chose the name Thunderbird (s) for the exact reason that Ford chose the name for its new two-seater car in 1954/55. The name was clearly associated with the Southwest, to honor the rich Native American folklore and the understanding of the strong and mighty power of this mythical Thunderbird who influenced the skies above us according to Native American folklore.



Training future military pilots in the late 1930's



Training Recruits Class in early 1940's



2026 Veterans Memorial Facility at Scottsdale Airport Complex



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

Third Step: Striker to Door Latch Assembly. The correct alignment of the door latch assembly to the ‘B” Pillar Striker plate is critical for easy open and closure of the door. The primary adjustment is made in the Striker Plate that can be adjusted 1/4” to 1/2” in the vertical direction and up to 3/8” in the horizontal direct, by simply loosening the three counter sunk machine screws. (**NOTE: DO NOT REMOVE ALL THREE SCREWS AT THE SAME TIME!**), this will cause the inter mounting plate to drop into the car’s internal body space—Nearly impossible to retrieve). The latch guide should hit the Striker Plate between 1/16” to 1/8”, causing the door to lift slightly as it closes, providing the top of door to be aligned to the Quarter panel top shelf.

Note: Be aware that the Door Lock assembly is expensive and most parts suppliers will only rebuild your existing unit or offer you a rebuilt unit. The core charge is over \$100.00.

Unfortunately, the overseas replacement door locks are simply not well made and important tolerances such as the Star Wheel shaft having virtually no notable spacing play is critical to ensure your door does not stick because the Star Wheel becomes loose and moves 1/16” outward away from the assembly body, (see diagram below).

Removing/Replacing the Door Lock Assembly if a moderate task and for some a difficult task to address. See steps below:

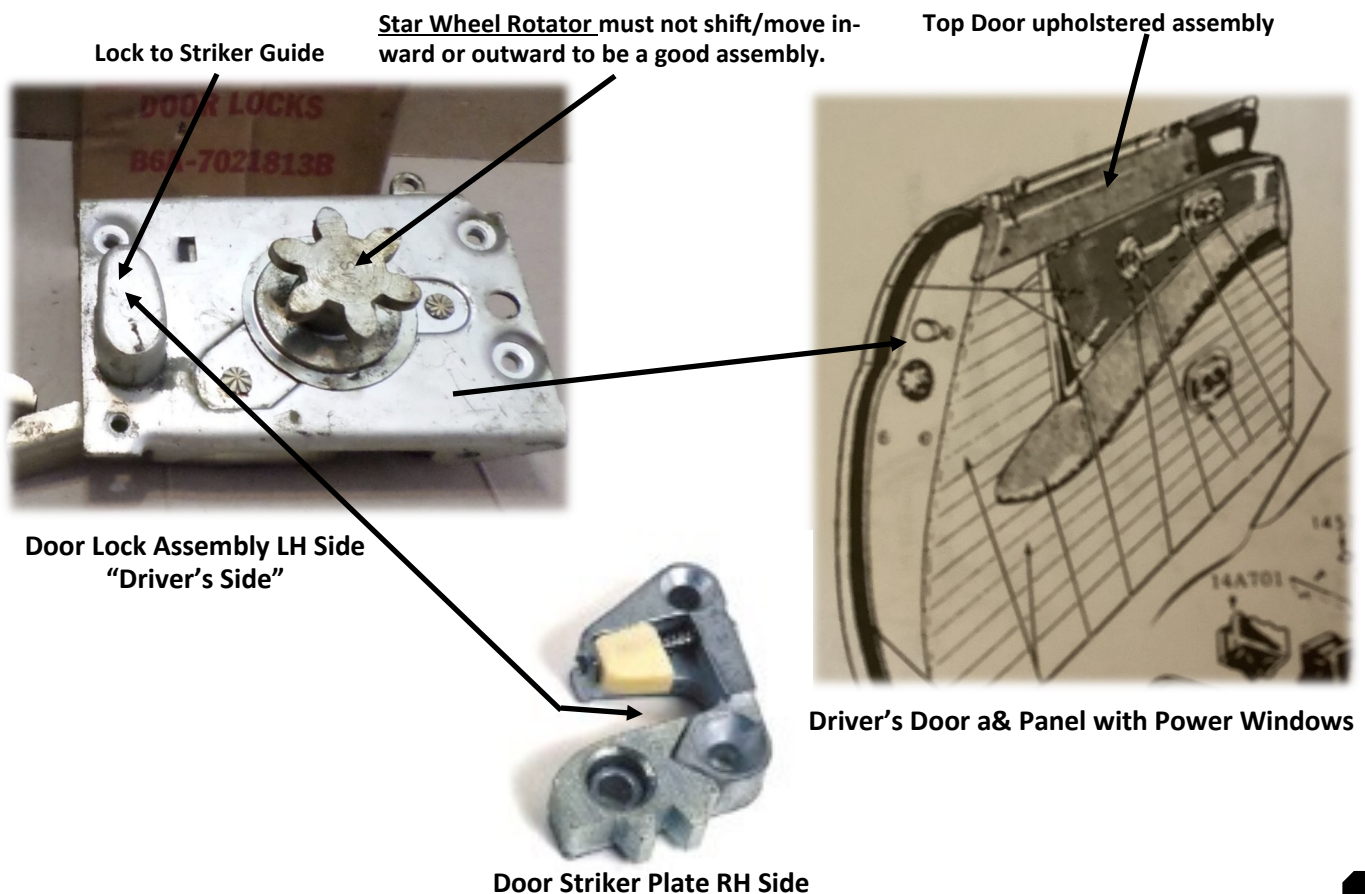
#1 Remove the door panel by removing the handles (Use tool on previous page) and or electrical connector for power windows, Use the plastic pry bar to carefully pop off the door panel from the keeper clips, remove the necessary top screws along with lock button unscrewed, slide the top upholstered assembly up and away.

#2 Carefully remove door’s weather barrier, if missing or damaged, a new one can be ordered, Remove the door’s metal access panel by removing the 6-8 screws. If this panel is missing replace it (It gives the door strength integrity).

#3 Remove the open handle swing arm, (Take a picture so to make reassembly easier), you now have access to lock.

#4 Unscrew the Lock Assembly held by 4 screws on he outside of the door, again try to take a few pictures because multiple levers attach to this assembly, remove old lock and become familiar with how the assembly works to help you when replace with the new lock. (See below comment for testing a good working Star Wheel).

#5: Reverse the disassembly steps to complete this task. (*Also, review the Ford Trim and Shop Manuals*).



ACTC Events Official Calendar

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.

November, 2026 — ACTC Meeting (There will be **No** Members Meeting this Month)

November 14th, 2026 - Wish Myrna Foster a Happy 90th Birthday!

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, 6:30-8.00 pm: **sic, 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 He will likely provide all of us on Oct. 18th more information. Lastly, there is RV camping at this event!

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.



⇒ **ACTC Annual Tech Day is Coming Soon! March XX, 2027 More details soon...**

⇒ **ACTC Annual Picnic is scheduled for April 10th, 2027 at the Scottsdale RR Park**

Trivia Message of the Month:

Thunderbird Movies, TV Series, Advertisements

The year is 1910, was 116 years ago and Ford Motors was just getting off the ground. What a difference a century plus makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1910 in the USA:

- The average life expectancy for men was 47 years and women estimated at 54 years.
- Gasoline/Fuel was 10 Cents and only sold at drug stores only!
- Only 14% of homes had bathtubs, most woman only washed their hair once a month with eggs and Borax (shampoo?)
- Less than 8% had a telephone, coffee was \$0.15/pound & eggs were \$0.14 a dozen, glass of beer \$0.05, no tooth paste
- Were only 25,000 cars (mostly Fords), only 144 miles of paved roads with a maximum speed of 10 mpg in most places
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower at 1,083 feet, USA the Metro Life Ins tower in NYC at 700 feet
- US average wages was \$0.22 per hour with an annual income of \$200-\$400

See more on page-15 >>>



Early Fall 2026 Events



Oct. 03rd, 2026 Laps for Charity Event Results:

The ACTC along with a few VTCL members (19 cars and 34 participants in total), successfully completed the five laps for charity raising \$600.00 for the Valley of the Sun Local charities at the Phoenix International Raceway (what a beautiful and clean facility). Many thanks to all who registered and or participated in this event, it made for a unique and enjoyable event for the members. Yes, the temperature was warm but nevertheless, we all seemed to have fun driving mostly 1956-68 Thunderbirds with a few Retro Birds. At 97 degree ambient temperatures and some periods of idling for 10-15 mins, it tested a few of the cars but, go news is that no actual over heating occurred. In total, we drove just under a 100 miles combined. Top speed was clocked 50-55 mph limited by the Official Pace Car. It would have been even more fun if they had let us run at 60 mph, Smiles! Must say, there was plenty of temptation to pass others, a big no-no! ***The list of participants were: Biale's, Bonneau's, Buzby's, Castle's, S. Dohm, S. Hall, D. Henderson, Ingram's, J. Kiley/B. Williams, Lunceford's, L. Mead, B. Michele, Pfeiffer's, Rodger's, Shearer's and Thompson's.***

(See pics below):



19 T-Birds mostly Red, White & Blue +1-Yellow and a Car Carrier Await the Gate Opening

Entering the Track's Famous Tunnel



All 19 Tbirds Being Staged

We are off in Turns 2 and 3



All received a picture taken in the Winner's Circle

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—9AM

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			
Cut off date Oct. 1st			
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!			
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)			





October

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cathy Burklund	10/03
Bret Williams	10/06
Jo Cannold	10/10
Denis Frank	10/10
Mary Lee Winer	10/11
Yvonne Wagner	10/15
Linda Thurston	10/18
Gary Thompson	10/23
Roger Ingram	10/24
Doni Bodell	10/28

Welcome To Our Newest ACTC Member!

No New Members this month but, this Summer brought 4 new members into the ACTC



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kerry & JodyPokorski	10/04
Kate & John Marchisotto	10/06
Stuart & Jo Cannold	10/30
Bob & Kathy Michele	10/12
Dale & Marilyn Lillard	10/15
Jim and Sherri Rodgers	10/28

Ford: Why the “Y” Block Engine? (Sept/Oct, 1954)

In 1948 Ford realized that they needed a replacement for the long running (20 years) and faithful “Flat Head” V8. They were fully aware that GM was not sitting still as it too was trying to replace the commonly used Blue Flame Six cylinder engine. Ford pulled out all the stops in engineering and developed a totally new approach with its first over-head cam, Cu. In. scalable engine block and a new approach to its intake manifold and exhaust manifolds. Lastly, hydraulic lifters driven by a lubricated rocker arm assembly via small ports and a external oil pump. All this effort produced well over 2.5X the horsepower of the old flathead and did make Ford very competitive in the 50’s reaching 300hp in a T-Bird. Unfortunately, the new engineering/design created significant issues and limitations for long-term application.

So what lead to Ford replacing the “Y” block?

#1 Displacement Limits, bore and internal architecture limits made it too expensive to exceed 312 CID reliably. The weight of cars were increasing, requiring more horsepower along with the start of the muscle car manufacturers horsepower challenge.

#2 Engine’s Weight and Design: the deep skirted crankcase provided a solid bottom end but, made the engine very heavy/costly.

#3 Oiling Issues: small oil ports for the rocker arms were easily plugged by low detergent dirty oil. Ford provided a later solution.

#4 Airflow Restrictions: the vertical stacked “dog-leg” intake ports restricted breathing and limited high-RPM potential. Later given the infamous nickname of the “Bad-Breather” engine.

#5 New Technology: by 1955-58 better metals and lighter engine block designs with improve airflow, heat distribution, higher horsepower-higher RPMs made the Y-Block obsolete by the end of 1962 for passenger vehicles.

The Y-Block existed as Ford’s go to V8 from 1954 to 1962. Not quite the decade long plan they hoped for but this engine platform did teach Ford much about even better V8 design.



VTCI Annual Convention in Flagstaff, AZ September 9th-13th, 2026 is now a memory...



Most know; this convention was originally intended to be jointly hosted by the VTCI and CTCL. Unfortunately, circumstances made it difficult for the CTCL organization to follow through with their commitment to this event. Nevertheless, our own ACTC club took the initiative to support the event with 11 of our membership in attendance plus the joint VTCI and ACTC members Roger and Cossette Ingram, who were without a doubt the king-pins of making this event happen. They worked so hard; so much went right with this event because of them! A few of the ACTC member's provided (Registration, Judging and Trophy Prep) support during the event to lessen the load a bit. The ACTC members in attendance were: Doug & Ellen Shearer, Bob & Kathy Michele, Chuck & Judy Thompson, Walt & Lynne Bonneau, Jennifer Kiley & Bret Williams and Sheri Dohm. In addition, we had Geoff & Barbara Wahl (VP of the San Diego CTCL Chapter) with us to witness/experience this convention, what a pleasure they were. Unfortunately, only the Bonneau's 1957 T-Bird (*Primary Class*), the Michele's 2005 Cashmere (*Retro-Original Class*) and Kiley's 1957 T-Bird (*Display Class*), represented the ACTC's T-Birds. In the end, both the Michele's 05' Retro and Bonneau's 57' each took 2nd place in their respective class (*Display class is not judged*). ACTC represented 2 of 5 Baby-Birds present at the convention.

This event was attended by approximately 190 members and was different from last years CTCL annual event in Grapevine, TX. Without a doubt, the Grapevine event was dominated by 55-57' T-Birds with superior judging. While this year's convention, there were only a handful of baby birds and the field was overwhelmingly dominated by +21 Retro-birds (02'-05'), a dozen Flair Birds, 3 or 4 Rocket/Jet Birds and a dozen or more later models. In total, there were +80 Thunderbirds of all types with 67 actually being judged in the various classifications, overall a nice cross section of models be shown for 1955'- 2005' the 11 generations of Thunderbirds.

As for the overall event; the Little America hotel was quite nice with beautiful surrounding grounds. It was difficult for some attendees to navigate the long walking distances required to attend the different agenda venues (*this was the #1 complaint followed by confusing trailer parking, the rest of the event was top notch*). The Silent Auction, Route 66—Guess Speaker, Awards Banquet and Historic/Museum sites along with Touring Route 66 were the highlights. As for the judging prep and actual judging, I can not say the same, it was a struggle with inconsistent rules being applied and a confusing prep event. Somehow, all the car's registered for judging did get judged one way or another, even with the limited resources. Having 11 generations of T-Birds definitely adds to the judging complexity.

Our ACTC member's enjoyed outside dinner/excursions and get togethers. Including the Route 66 touring to the town of Williams. Plus a bit of good "antique-hunting" along Flagstaff's Route 66, were very fun. Most agree; one of the best parts of the 4-5 day event was ACTC members being together while also meeting so many new people, followed closely by getting to see Flagstaff and their 14 mile touring of Route 66. The number of people on the street who wanting pictures of our cars, giving thumbs-up everywhere and saying really cool things about our T-Birds, as we drove and or parked was the best reward a T-Bird caretaker could ever receive. [These Baby T-Birds really do make so many people smile!](#)



Our Group at the Theatrical Steak House
We enjoyed the Live Music



Walking away with our VTCI Route 66 Awards



We never knew Bret
had a close cousin on
Route 66.

Continued on Page-11 >>>



What a wonderful added tribute to Route 66's 100th Anniversary, having all those Thunderbirds show up in Flagstaff. The weather was so kind to this event, in such a manner that we received a gift of 70-80F degree temperatures in the day. We were given a much needed break from the desert's heat below @ 105-108F degrees each day. Flagstaff offered us plenty of sunshine, cool breezes, beautiful clouds and even one over night free car wash. A great place to breath Ponderosa Pine trees — fresh air.

The 14 mile Flagstaff stretch of Route 66 is vibrant with plenty of people and businesses, both new and old from the 40's, 50's, and 60's. We have all experienced parts of Route 66 that is hanging on by a tread for survival, well Flagstaff's Route 66 is not one of these locations.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Chuck and Judy Thompson for being such gracious host and helping us to navigate the best places to visit/eat during our 4-5 day convention stay.



Jennifer and Bret met a new friend on Route 66! Unfortunately, the friendship didn't last when he was told they only had a two seater transport vehicle

Bonneau's 57"

Michele's 05' Retro



Judging occurs on Baby Birds with a view of the Retro Bird's



Visited by many, only 2 of the 5 Baby Birds at the event?



A few really nice Square Birds and more Retro's



Route 66 Antique Hunting with Flame and Rosy leading the



The ACTC Flagstaff Convention Squad



42nd Annual Run to the Pines Car Show Held Saturday, September 26th, 2026

Pinetop Lakes Golf and Country Club, AZ

ACTC Members enjoyed a weekend of cooler temperatures and a really nice car show in the AZ mountains. It is great to see such car shows that truly appreciate the Pre-1973 classics.

Wow, our club had some real winners this year, including:

Jennifer Kiley who walked away with not only the Woman's Choice Award but, also a first place trophy in the Thunderbird Class for her 1957 T-Bird, better known as Rosy (*We all know the ladies really like her*) Rosy had her trusted Ford mechanic Bret in support.

Doug Shearer brought home the second place trophy for his Yellow 1957 T-Bird in the Thunderbird Pre 73' Class.

Gregg and Linda Thurston walked away with a third place trophy in their really cool 1956 Peacock T-Bird for the Pre-73' Thunderbird Class.

Congratulations to ALL the Winners!

Other members in attendance:

Jack & Nikki Musselmann, Yvonne & Tom Wagner.



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

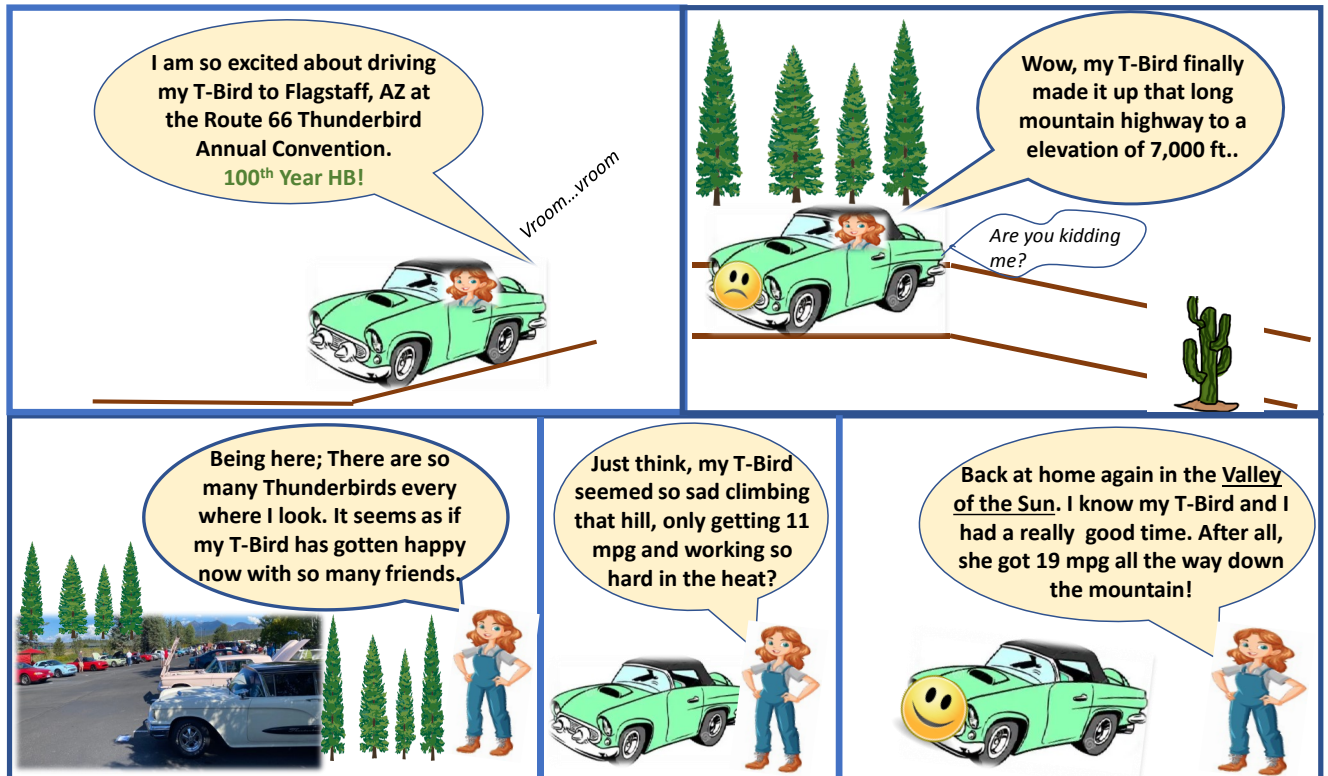
The ACTC's Board—[Ways and Means](#) wants to extend a big thank you to all who purchased one or more of these nice T-Shirts. We originally ordered 60 of these shirts back in February, 2025, as of this May, 2026 all have been purchased with the exception of the last three. The last three T-Shirts have 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 still 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.



ACTC 2025 Committee Members

Most of this SECTION was Intentionally Left Blank!

Historian
Hospitality
Inspector General
Membership
Nominating Lead

Elected 2025 Board/Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Ways and Means
Board Member at Large
Ex-Officio

End...

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



4055 28th North Recker Road Mesa, AZ 85215

2026 ACTC MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DEADLINE
January 23rd 2026

ARIZONA CLASSIC
THUNDERBIRD CLUB



ANNUAL DUES
\$40 per household

MEMBER NAME _____ MEMBER BIRTHDAY _____

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 (Continued from Page #07):

- A very competent accountant earned \$2000/Yr. while a dentist earned \$2,500 & a Vet \$4,000/Yr., Mech Engr \$5000.
- Over 95% of births took place at home and 90% of doctors had no formal college education (See life expectancy)? Some attended "So-Called Medical Schools that were often commended in the Press & by Government
- The six leading cause of death were: 1) Pneumonia and Influenza, 2.) Tuberculosis, 3) Diarrhea, 4) Heart disease, 5) Stroke and 6) was child birth
- The American Flag had only 45 stars, the population of Las Vegas was 30 & the population of Phoenix was 11,134 persons
- Crossword, puzzles, canned beer, ice tea had not been invented nor was there Mother or Fathers Day
- Only 2 out of 10 citizens could read or write with less than 6% graduating from high school.
- 18% of households had at least on servant or domestic helper.
- The Murder rate was 230 that year from a total US population of 92.3 Million for a murder rate of .0000024

How the Times have Changed!

Original was Provided by Bob Sioles

New Membership Request:

Contact Judy Thompson

New Advertisers Welcomed;

Contact Walt Bonneau

Remember All meetings are: smoke and cell
phone free!



NO SMOKING



Arizona Bird Chatter

Published by:

Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club

CTCI Chapter 35

14698 E. 40th Place

Yuma, AZ 85367

Email: waltbonneau@gmail.com





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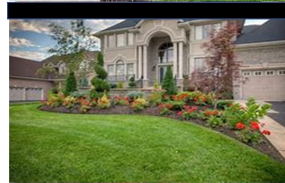
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