ARIZONA BIRD CHATTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 09 — November, 2026 CTCI-2025 Gold Medallion

November Issue

This months Featured T-Bird

My work on motor vehicles began around 1960, when I was 11. My dad purchased a 1942 jeep from a friend and I began working on the jeep with his guidance. Since that time I have worked on, painted, and restored numerous vehicles, but none to the extent to which I have restored our 1956 Thunderbird.

We located and purchased the car in Florida on Autotrader in 2007. My daughter, Amanda, and I flew to Florida, purchased the car from the lady who had owned it for over 40 years, and drove it back to Arizona, stopping in front of the Alamo for a photograph on the trip. The seller had repainted the original Ford peacock blue car red and installed a black interior and black headliner and dash.

With the exception of the seat upholstery, headliner, and engine block rebuild, I performed the entire restoration which included sand blasting and repainting the underside of the vehicle, removing, disassembling and reassembling the engine and transmission, installing 1957 Thunderbird heads, new radiator and hoses, U-joints, 90 amp alternator, windshield, dash covering, interior door panels, carpeting, seat belts, fan shroud and electric fan, Edelbrock carburetor, new 57 style distributor, fuel pressure limiter, Vintage AC, weather seals, carpeting and trunk liner, rebuilding the brakes, break-lines, and bearings, installing radial tires with a fender skirt modification, and repainting the entire vehicle with the correct two stage peacock blue paint. I owe a big thanks to Ken Falkenberry, Stewart Wright, Mike Wood, and Don Henderson for all their advice over the years. As with most / all vintage cars, I'm not done!



Our Baby Bird has won a few trophies along the way, and that just adds a bit of satisfaction as an owner.

Linda and I joined ACTC in 2008, I was ACTC club VP in 2012, President in 2013 and 2014. We organized numerous club events including two trips to the Grand Canyon North Rim and a 4 day fall leaves trip to Durango, Silverton and Ouray, Colorado, trips to car shows, Fountain Hills Parades, and I wrote numerous articles for the newsletter. We made a lot of good friends and it has been a great life adventure. You just can't beat it when you drive the car and people photograph you as they drive by, or ask you at the grocery store what year is it, are you the original owner and can we buy it…

By Gregg and Linda Thurston



A winning day for our 56'



Our Baby-Bird in the process of being restored to it original paint

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From the President's Desk

"Inside looking through the Porthole"

by: Douglas Shearer

Fellow ACTC T-Birders,

Our last meeting in October had a nice turnout and it was great to see everyone after our hot summer break. We spoke about having less meetings and instead going with our Birds to different places for lunch or just to go to the many attractions the valley has to offer. The board had a zoom meeting on 11/3 to discuss those outings and events and will follow up with more information in the upcoming edition of the Bird Chatter.

On 10/24 some of our club members that live in the east valley decided to go on an impromptu outing and took our 5 cars minus mine (due to battery failure in the garage no less) and proceeded to travel to Tortilla Flats past Canyon Lake for Lunch. What a beautiful day it was not to mention driving past an almost dredged up lake. Very eerie to say the least. Pictures and further news of the day will also be included in the newsletter.

We will not be having a November meeting, so we can plan on getting out with the birds before Thanksgiving. I'll be heading back to NY with my son for our annual hunting trip. Hoping for some snow on the ground. December will be our club's annual Christmas Party at the American Legion Post #107. That's always a blast and I encourage everyone to dress up and we added some additional fun adventure.

One issue I'd like to bring up that was discussed in the Board's zoom meeting is the Buck Hoag award. Which, by the way, will be awarded to one of our deserving members for the first time in two years at the January 10th, 2027 ACTC Meeting. The committee had several candidates in mind and I'm sure the one we choose will be very deserving.

I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and give thanks to the many things life has to offer and wish those with health issues a full and healthy recovery. Can't wait to see you all at the Christmas Party!

With that in mind I offer you this thought:

"Count your blessings and name them one by one. Then celebrate Thanksgiving for all the Lord has done."

Author: – *Johnson Oatman Jr. 1897*



What's in that T-Bird Trunk For Sale?

For Sale: A beautiful 2005 Ford Thunderbird Deluxe Convertible with White Hard Top & Black Soft-top, 50th Anniversary Edition.

- ⇒ (3.9L V8 FI Gasoline)
- ⇒ In excellent condition
- ⇒ Added options & garaged most of its life
- ⇒ Well taken care of at 80,880 miles.
- ⇒ Hard Top Stand Included
- ⇒ Added Options

Asking: $15,900 OBO Located: Garaged in Gilbert, AZ
Contact: Kristen Alexandra @ 480-206-9777



Additional, pictures on the last page of this newsletter.

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 Thunderbird project car, complete with some new parts, engine does need to be rebuilt.**
  Asking $7,500. Peoria, AZ. Contact: Mike Wood



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-03 to right) 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



See Page-03 — Left Side



Tech Facts

Understanding Your T-Bird's Factory Temperature Gauge

By: Jim Cook, Walt Bonneau & Technical input from Gil's Garage

Most all of the experienced 55-57' T-Bird owners are quite familiar with that dash temperature gauge, especially when the ambient temperature is north of 95 F. The first question commonly asked; Can I believe my gauge's readings. Second question is; How exactly do I read and interrupt that gauge's readings. Does 3/4 really mean my engine is too hot? If my gauge reads 7/8 and flirting with the last white mark, does that mean I need to pull off the road and let it cool down?

A bit of background; When it comes to the 1955/56/57 Thunderbirds, this subject more than likely been discussed and written about more than any other. Even when new, under certain driving conditions (parades & congestion city driving when coupled with excessive ambient temperature, these Thunderbirds were prone to run toward the hot side of "normal". The primary reason for higher than normal operating temperatures under these conditions was due to the engine compartment design. Which, did not allow for much free air flow in a manner to carry out the hot air transferred from the radiator and the engine. There is also a basic design flaw in the water pump system for the "Y" Block. The T-Bird engine (s) were the same engines used in thousands of Ford passenger cars and trucks who did not exhibit the same tendency to overheat. Understanding the water pump for the T-Bird's was the same as used on passenger cars and trucks. The timing cover for both the passenger car and T-Bird's were similar in design, both were built to accommodate the same water pump. The cavity for the water pump impeller was approximately 5/8" deep. The water pump impeller was approximately 1/2" thick. This combination worked fine in the passenger cars and trucks. When the same engine was used in a T-Bird it was necessary to install a 1.25" spacer between the water pump and mounting cavity to accommodate belt alignments. When this spacer was installed the water pump impeller did not fill the extra 1.0" gap created by the water pump spacer. The results were a lesser volume of coolant being pumped through the engine. This lesser volume of coolant with infrequent radiator flushes and coolant changes created an accumulation of solid rust/slug around the rear cylinders of the block.

Ok, so what can we do to reduce our T-Bird's operating temperature especially in +90F degree ambient temperatures. First and foremost, be sure your water coolant system in in good working order with less than three year old anti-freeze coolant and your pressure cap is working along with your water pump and thermostat.

Continued on top of Page-06>>>

Historical Facts

55-57" — Baby Birds Opened a World of Color *on America's Roadways*

*By **Walt Bonneau & contributions from Edmund & CarProUSA***

The America cars in the 1910-1929 era were for the most part color limited. The majority of cars were Black at 65%, Gray /Silver at 22%, White at 3-4% (a status color of the time), and all other colors at less than 10%. The period of late 1929-1942 brought a bit more choice in car color; Black at 50%, Gray /Silver at 15% and the introduction of Greens and Reds which became quite popular complimented by Blues and Browns at 25%, all others at 10%. By the mid 30's metallic paints became the new status symbol in car color, where fish scales were blended into the paint like glitter.

After WWII, car colors did not change much until 1955-57 when Ford Introduced the Thunderbird Personal Luxury Car with a growing palette of colors, including:

Raven Black, Torch, Fiesta & Flame Reds, Thunderbird Blue, Starmist, Azure & Peacock Blues, Snowshoe & Colonial Whites, Golden Rod & Goldenglow Yellows, Sun & Inca Golds, Thunderbird Bronze, Gunmetal (Metallic) & Thunderbird Grey & Navajo Greys, Tropical & Sunset Coral Sand & Dusk Rose, Willow & Seaspray & Thunderbird Greens and Coral Sand. In total, Ford within three years offered 25 paint choices. Soon after General Motors with the Chevy Bel-Air introduced several new colors to address the every popular Ford pallet of color including the very popular Turquois, Matador Red, Surf Green and Inca Silver with two-tone variations, in total 20 paint choices. The streets surely brightened in color after 1954.



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

The wave of new colors ushered in the 1950's through 1990's gaving multiple color choices for the car buyer. By the mid-1960's Chrysler Corporation took the primary pallet of pastels and introduced "High-Impact Paints", such as: Plum Crazy Violet (Leading choice of buyers), Hemi Orange, Vitamin C Orange, Rallye Green and Top Banana Yellow to name a few. Ford and GM responded with a few High-Impact colors but, not to Chryslers degree of choice.

By late 1960's through 1995 (in particular) green shades became a very popular car paint choice with over 20% of new car buyers. Ford offered multiple shades of Green but, GM lead the pack with 10 different shades of green paint choices. The 1968 Steve McQueen's iconic Green Bullitt Ford Mustang really set in place the demand for green adoption. Soon after, the Ford Thunderbird offered a few shades of green on its Glamor Birds. By 1996 the Green car choice were reduced to just under 14%. (See chart below). Even in 1996 the top five colors in volume order made up 80% of the car market, these colors were: White, Red, Black, Green, and Blue. Other colors such as Silver, Gray, Brown, Gold and Beige made up an addition 17.6%.

Further down in the attached pictorial chart for buyers of 2025 car models, paint choices/selections clearly shows that somehow the American car buyer has returned right back to the limited colors of Black, Gray/Silver and Whites of the 1910-1929 era. These limited color choice made up 80.4% of the market. Next time you are on the highway, look around at the lack of color in what people drive. You will mostly see a sea of White, Black and Gray/Silver vehicles. With the random red or blue car for the most part.

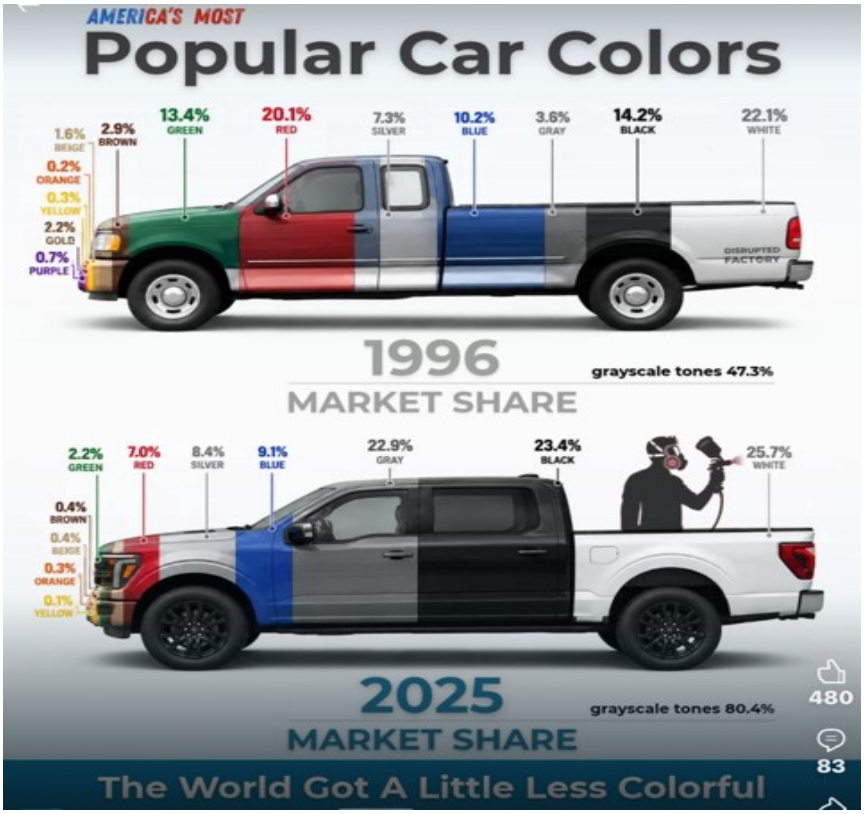
Unfortunately, the car manufactures have responded to buyer's top three or four choices in color offerings. Shades of White, Grey and Black with one or two other color choices. A bit ironic, that you can order a Semi-Truck, even today with your choice of four dozen colors and 100's of shades. Leaving the most colorful vehicles on the roadways in America to the Semi-Trucks.

There is hope on the horizon, if we chose to think optimistically; People who see classic cars at car shows, parades, on- the-road or in a parking lot, often go out of their way to take pictures and / or talk. This is especially true when 6 -12 classic cars of varying colors are together. The T-Bird ("Baby Bird's") original pallet of color really brings out those smiles on people. It is not uncommon to hear; "I just love those colors". Now we all know that women and especially young women, appreciate the Dusk Rose and Coral Sand colors. While, most men prefer the Torch Red and Starmist Blue. The somewhat rare Inca Gold (Yellow) is a favorite with the youth and the iconic Peacock.

There are plenty of both male and female car enthusiast that simply appreciate the Snow or Colonial white with black Soft top, A.K.A the Tuxedo look.

By the hundreds of public inter-actions and experiences, so many owners are in agreement that these Baby-Birds of the 50's and the Retro-Birds of the early 2000's offered such a pallet of color, bringing happiness to so many faces.

For the owners/care-takers of these classic cars; It is worth more than any trophy awarded for sure just to hear from someone that mentions— how much theses colorful cars make them somehow feel very happy. This world needs color!

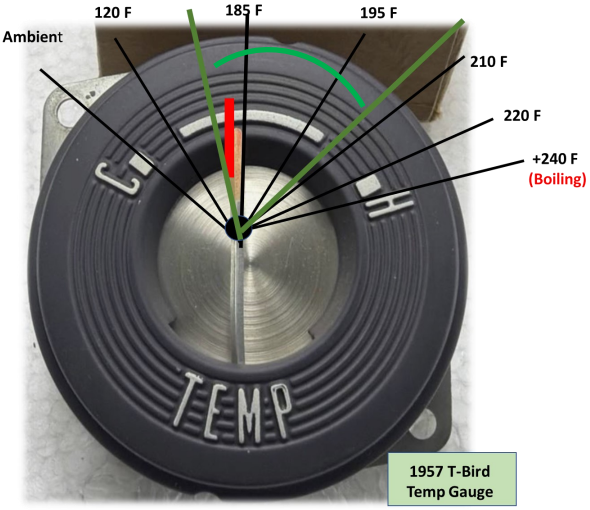


Continued from Page-04<< ***(Tech Facts)***

Having fresh coolant and a tested 13-14 *PSI* pressure cap on the radiator will increase the water boiling point from 212F to 237F with a 50/50 blend of water to concentrated coolant. Dependent upon the **thermostat** being used (160 or 180 degree type), will determine at what temperature this component opens to allow cooler radiator water to start circulating throughout the engine. Any operating temperature over-time at less than 160 degrees F will contribute to engine sludge build up. The ideal thermostat in most T-Bird application's is 180 degree F. Ideally, a good operating engine temperature **range is between 165F and 205F, highlighted by the left and right green bars in the image below right**. The example temperature gauge image shows how to best interpret your temperature gauge. **Note:** In the Arizona Southwest desert, a thermostat of 160 degrees also makes for a good choice since, there is not much concern with cool below 160 F operational sludge buildup, the environment in the desert is too warm, 85% of time.

Note: These temperature gauges were designed to give the driver an indicator of a safe zone of operation not an exact temp reading. *The gauge uses* ***"Thermo-electric, bi-metallic strip/coil powered by a pulsating voltage (around 5 volts). The gauge pairs a thermistor-style sending unit in the engine block with the heating element inside the dash-board gauge that bends the bi-metallic arm to move the needle. Making the gauge operate in a somewhat linear response. Actual gauge needle indication can vary by 5-10F degrees from car to car. A good reason to map your gauge (See blow).***

As for the engine **thermal sensor**; it is located on the LH side top of the engine in the back. As the temperature rises, the resistance in the sensor lowers that in turn moves the gauge needle toward the H, grounding or zero resistance at the sensor will force the needle past the H, full defection. **Important**: Any operating temperature of 235F for more then a few minutes is likely to damage your engine; from cracked heads and / or engine block, to blowing a head gasket. Therefore, if the Temp gauge is operating at or above the last white "block" to "H", the driver should pull off the road as soon and safely as possible.



Mapping Your T-Birds Dash Temp Gauge

Gauge Mapping: Using a handheld Laser Temperature gauge is a reasonable way to test the operating temperatures at various engine locations. In example, as depicted below are three separate engine locations to test on your engine. As expected the water pump casing is the lower reading while the intake manifold is likely the hottest (*a reality on a Y-Block Ford Engine*). The top of the engine block where the Temperature Sensor is located, is the temperature location to concentrate on to map your Dash Temperature Gauge. Check /Measure the Temp sensor location as follows, and map these temperatures to your dash gauge reading: **1.) Cold engine, 2.) Idling Engine operating for 2 mins, 3.) Idling Engine operating for 5 mins, 4.) Idling engine for 10 mins, and lastly 6.) Drive the car for 15-20 mins than stop and measure the sensor temperature and water pump casing temp for reference, checking your dash gauge needle location each time. Never should the temperature rise to above 205-210 degrees if, testing is done with an 87-94F degrees ambient environment on the sensor location, and 190-195F at the water pump casing (*This is telling you the radiator (Electric fan (s) if equipped), and water pump are doing their job*).** To test if the thermostat (180F type), is opening, and at what temperature while the engine is idling for less than 30 seconds, point the Temp Laser Gun at the casing. It should read a rise to 175-185F degrees in temperature for your electric fan (s) to start operating, but not before it reaches 180F.

205F Temp Gauge Location



190F Water Pump Casing



Handheld Laser Gun
Temperature Gun

210F Intake Manifold

ACTC Events Official Calendar

Sunday November, 2026 — ACTC Meeting - (There will be No Member Meeting this Month)

Nov. 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 Will 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; **Dinner, Music, Games & Dancing** this year), Price per person only $40.00 each, as your club is providing a subsidy-offset. **We all had a great time last year with even more fun events this year, let's do it again!"**

Sun. January, 10th, 2007 —ACTC First meeting of the Calendar year:

Location: American Legion Post #107, 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix (An Important Club Meeting, ALL members are encouraged to attend.) 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 per person** which includes: meal, drinks and service tip to the staff. **Note:** The **ACTC's Buck Hoag Award** will also be presented at this meeting, the first since year 2024. **Please email or call Walt or Lynne Bonneau to RSVP**.

Feb. 06th, 2027: Oro Valley Car Show, Cruise, BBQ & Blues Festival (ACTC Participation).

Registration cost is $45.00 and is now open. If interested, please register ASAP (Only 200 car openings available). See website: artstateaz.org click on Registration and follow instructions. Further ACTC meeting group location details for the drive location and hotels—see the Dec., 2026 Newsletter for details.

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

A new event for our club to attend: 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 (A small donation is appreciated) if, you bring a classic/vintage car for show. Fellow ACTC member Fred Borns will be coordinating the event He will provide additional information at the January 10th ACTC meeting. Note: there is also RV camping at this event!

Other Big ACTC Events Coming in 2027

- ⇒ **ACTC Annual Tech Day is Coming Soon! February 27th, 2027 More details soon...**
- ⇒ **ACTC Annual Picnic is scheduled for April 10th, 2027 at the McCormick-Stillman RR Park in Scottsdale. More details soon...**

Trivia Message of the Month: **Thunderbird Movies, TV Series, Advertisements**

The Manufacturers Horsepower Race all started in the 1950's and continues to this day:

1.) The independent automaker who pioneered early 1950's low-slung, aerodynamic performance enhancement styling. Which Ford applied to the 55'-56' and especially the 57' T-Birds?

2.) What aircraft inspired Detroit's famous tail-fin styling trend of the 1950s and in particular, inspired the 57' Thunderbird design.

3.) What car in 1955 was the Detroit Horsepower King making this manufacturer a true NASCAR winner?

4.) What car model is given the title of being the Godfather of modern American performance / early muscle,

See more on page-13 >>>

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October 18th, 2006 ACTC Meeting / Minutes

The meeting was held at the American Legion Post #107 on N. Cave Creek Rd. in Phoenix, AZ

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Doug Shearer, followed by the meeting start time of 9:05am. Breakfast was served in the middle of the meeting (paused) and reconvened at 10:10am with a motion to end the meeting at 11:10am. There were 36 /37 members in attendance. Four of the six Board members were present: Doug, Walt, Bob and Chuck.

Hospitality: We sang "Happy Birthday" to the people born since the last meeting, which was in Mid-May. Bev Lynch shared that she got to restore the MG that her and Pat owned. Bev turned 80 in August. Today was Linda Thurston's birthday. Tom Wagner is having surgery tomorrow, shunt in this brain. Terry Duquette spoke about his mother's car. Doug and Ellen Shearer are having another grandchild in March. Bev Lynch mentioned a car repair shop called "Charley's Garage" for T-Bird repair.

Secretary: Myrna Foster was not present and Yvonne Wagner stepped-in take the Minutes.

Treasurer: Chuck Thompson said we have sufficient money/funds, and all the accounts are balanced. A year ago we took some of the money and put it into interest bearing accounts and it has been productive.

Chuck thanked Bob Michele for all of his hard work as the VP and Member at Large as his function transitions.

CTCI: Chuck Thompson explained what is happening at CTCI and the problems they are having. If you want more information on this, please contact Chuck Thompson. In June, 2027 there will be a Semi-Annual CTCI Convention in Albany, NY. More details to follow.

Membership: Judy Thompson said we have 65 Households, 113 members. 9-55's, 11-56's, and 36-57's. Retro-birds 8 -2002, 1-2003, 2-2004, and 3-2005s. She accepted two ACTC member renewals for 2027 during the meeting.

She made a request: Please fill out the **new** membership form for 2027

Newsletter Editor: Walt Bonneau told us about the PIR "Laps for Charity" event and they had a great time. The ACTC raised $600 for the local Children's Charity with the 19 T-Birds completing 5 laps.

Newer member Fred Borns; his niece was killed in a traffic accident and asked Walt to speak on his behalf of the Annual Vintage Aircraft & Car Show being held at the airport in Casa Grande, Mar. 6th, 2027. Free to any classic car entering into the car show.

Walt mention that work is in progress on the Annual ACTC Tech Day probable date in early to Mid-March, 2027. Walt thanked Dwyane for donating a screen for the ACTC videos especially useful for the Tech day.

Walt mentioned that the ACTC were invited to the Thunderbird Airfield –II and to bring our T-Birds for their annual Nov. event. The date unfortunately was in conflict of another of our events.

Greg Thurston mentioned the Thanksgiving Veterans Parade in Fountain Hills, AZ and wanted people to sign up to drive in the parade. Also, mentioned the Tbird picnic at Stillman-McCormick railroad park in April 2027. Details are in the works...

Vice President/Member at Large: Bob Michele told a good joke. No meeting in November. Christmas party will be just like last year with a few more cool activities at the American Legion on Saturday December 12th from 4-8pm. Cost is not determined yet. Look for the flyer in the ACTC email and the November and/ or December Newsletter.

Effective January 1, 2027, Walt Bonneau will assume the role of VP of the club. Lynne Bonneau will be the assistant Treasurer. Bob will still be the email coordinator and official joke provider. There will be a deadline for RSVP by Dec. 4th, 2026.

Inspector General: Steve Kovacic chose Doug Shearer's yellow 57'. It was the only one that did not have fender skirts.

New Business: We are going to Tortilla Flats on Saturday the 26th. Everyone is welcome to come. No meeting in February so we can accommodate other car show events /activities. March through December, 2027 will be announced later.

Jamie T. mentioned the car show in Florence. Gregg T. mentioned the car show at Sahuarita, AZ on January 30th, 2027.

Walt wants us to focus on a few of the Car Shows for ACTC participation because there are so many. Board will decide. Previous member Maryanne Wood donated T-Bird items to the club that were raffled off.

Split the pot: $50 winner – Effie Duquette.

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Wagner

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November

Name	Date
Jeannie Wood	11/13
Otis Wolkins	11/11
Myrna Foster	11/14
Tracey Mosness	11/14
Judy Thompson	11/24
Dan Garvey	11/24
Dulcie Martin	11/27

Welcome To Our Newest ACTC Member!

Kirsten Alexander **Gilbert , AZ**



November

Name	Date
Steve & Debi Ulsund	11/11
Rita & Troy Homewood	11/18
Mike & Jeannie Wood	11/24

Ford goes all out with Thunderbird Advertisement in August of 1956 for the new 1957 Model

Ford realized that even though the 1955 and 56' T-Birds were a success compared to the poor sales of the Corvette (700(55'), 3,467(56') and 6,339(57'), Ford felt that it was necessary to grow the sales for the 1957 model year much-higher. Ford's strategy was to address the short comings of the 55'-56' model year with multiple design changes, as follows:

1.) *Larger trunk to accommodate the spare tire while leaving room for more luggage.*
2.) To improve upon the dash board
3.) To add the ever so popular tail fins with a lower stance
4.) New advertising campaign directed more so as: "America's Most Wanted and Individual/Personal Car".

Considering sales jumped from 16,155 (55') to 21,380 (57) units giving an increase of 34% showed Ford that new ads and design enhancements were successful (Noting: the Corvette only sold 29.5% that of the 57' T-Bird. Unfortunately, the overall volume T-Birds units sold was still not big enough to keep Ford management very happy. Below is one of the many



The ACTC Tortilla Flats Driving Tour
Saturday, October 24th, 2026



Doug Shearer organized a short noticed /quick driving tour to Tortilla Flats located North East of Chandler/ Gilbert, AZ, about 40 miles each way. Eleven of the ACTC Members enjoyed the short drive in a bit cooler wonderful weather in their T-Birds. Members included:

Chuck & Judy Thompson, Tom & Yvonne Wagner, Doug Shearer, Jack & Nikki Musselman, Gary & Jamie Thompson and Jim Delton.

Tortilla Flats is considered Arizona's oldest surviving stagecoach town, nestled in the Superstition Mountains along the Apache Trail. It dates back to 1904 and was founded as a freight and workers camp for the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam.

The Stagecoach town has a famous saloon and restaurant along with a few other businesses and is considered one of the top ten driving destination stops in Arizona.

The Trip offered plenty of history and plain old driving





November 03, 2026 ACTC Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at 9:30am and concluded at 11:00am. In attendance were: Doug Shearer, Bob Michelle, Jim Rodgers, Chuck Thompson, Myrna Foster and Walt Bonneau (Full Quorum)

Topics discussed:

- ⇒ **Christmas Party: Italian Buffet Dinner (requested dietary items will be considered), Ticket Price to be set at $40.00 per person (subsidized by the Club), new Game activities will be added this year.**
- ⇒ **Buck Hoag Award: Candidate was selected and will be presented at the ACTC January 10th Meeting. Board further decided on a five-year membership qualification requirement guideline.**
- ⇒ **Event Planning 2027: Included the finalization of the Christmas Party, ACTC , 2027 F2F meetings to be held in: Jan., Mar., May (Summer Break), Sep. and Early Nov. (Leaving open a possible additional month if required).**
- ⇒ **Board agreed to the following Activities for 2027: Casa Grande Car Show, Oro Valley Car Show, ACTC Tech Day and ACTC Picnic. (Details published in the Newsletter Nov. and Dec., 2026 issues)**
- ⇒ **CTCI Members Only Meeting will be held on Nov. 20th @ Noon Central Time. Register with the link that CTCI has or will provide via email to members who are interested in attending by a Zoom Conference Call.**
- ⇒ **Board agreed to better publish the short notice driving tours and provide east and west valley options.**

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 >>>>

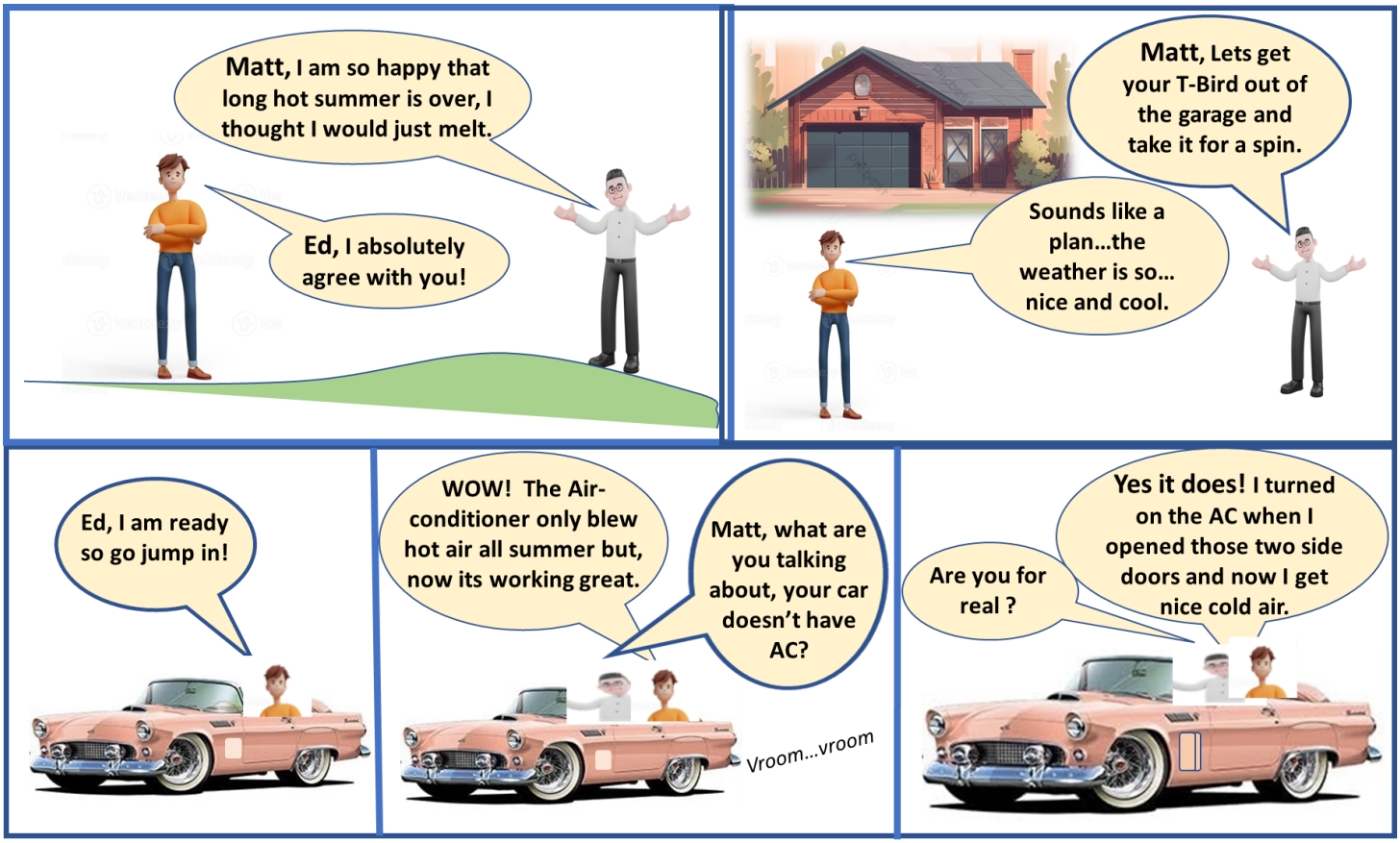
The Ways and Means is still working on a possible ACTC Club Logo Hat, so look in late fall-2026 for this offering. So far the ACTC Logo is the preferred hat adornment, see below:





Rough Sample

On the Lighter-side of the Thunderbird



The Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club (ACTC)

Founded as Chapter #35 of the CTCI on October 11, 1970 and Arizona Incorporated on November 30th, 1971. Originally established with six charter members but has continued to grow with over 100 plus members with 68 Classic and Retro Thunderbirds in 2025. We are part of Southwest Region # 06 of CTCI. he 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

This section intentionally left blank.

Request for Newsletter Submissions:



Contact Walt Bonneau: waltbonneau@gmail.com

All ACTC and CTCI 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: CTCI, 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 VTCI Phoenix Chapter.

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

Forms, News, Events & Misc. Information

2027 ACTC MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DEADLINE:
January 23rd, 2027

ANNUAL DUES
$40 per household

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Mesa, AZ 85215
Tel: 602 625-2852

MEMBER NAME _____ MEMBER BIRTHDAY _____
SPOUSE / OTHER (include last name, if different) _____ SP/SO BIRTHDAY _____
ANNIVERSARY _____ YEAR JOINED _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE _____
ZIP CODE _____ +4 DIGIT ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____ SP/SO CELL PHONE _____
EMAIL _____ SP/SO EMAIL _____
CTCI NO. _____
CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD(S) OWNED
YEAR _____ COLOR _____
MODERN CLASSIC (RETRO BIRDS) OWNED
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 _____
WEBSITE ADDRESS: AZclassicthunderbirds.org

OFFICE USE ONLY
Check # _____
Date _____
Amount _____
Year 2027

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

Trivia Answers from Page-07

1.) *Studebaker Corporation*

2.) *WWII P-38 Lightning fighter / bomber.*



3.) *Chrysler, C-300's @ 300 hp using Hemi V8 power, while Ford responded later in 1956/57 with the Ford Thunderbird F-Code super charged 312 V8 @ 300 hp and Corvette received a V8. The Horsepower race was on!*

4.) *The 1949/50 Oldsmobile Rocket 88 producing plenty of low end torque at 135hp from a 303 CID overhead valve V8. Top speed 100 mph.*

New Membership Request;

Contact Judy Thompson

New Advertisers Welcomed;

Contact Walt Bonneau

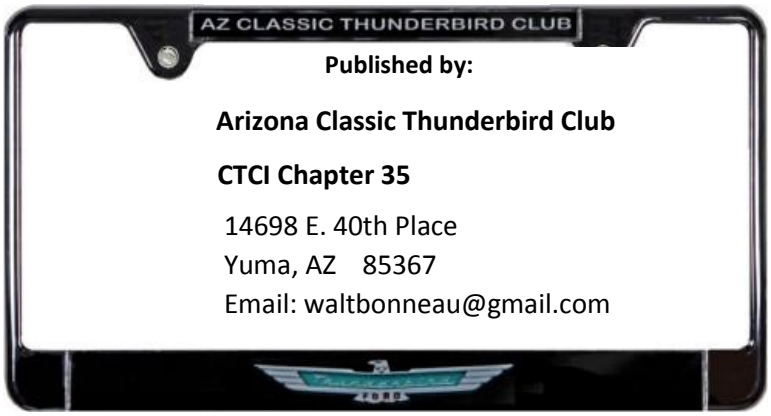
Remember All meetings are: smoke and cell phone free!



NO SMOKING



Arizona Bird Chatter



Published by:

Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club

CTCI Chapter 35

14698 E. 40th Place
Yuma, AZ 85367
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We would like to continue to acknowledge our eight ACTC Newsletter supporters/advertisers for the 2025/2026 year. Let's continue to show them our member support in return! If you purchase a service or product from them be sure to let them know you are with the ACTC.

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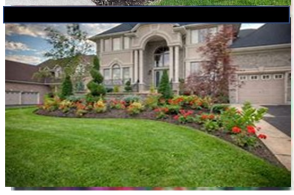
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Continued from page-02<<<

2005 Retro Thunderbird For Sale, Added Pictures







