

December
2021

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Steve Kelley
443-371-3030

skelley@gottogotravel.net

Cathy Kelley

443-417-0441

cathykelley49@gmail.com

V. President,

Membership

Mike Melnyk

610-279-6279

thunderbirdmike@juno.com

Secretary

Lynn Horn

410-377-5824

lynnhorn704@gmail.com

Treasurer

Harry Skruch

410-256-2740

hskruch@verizon.net

Editor

Skip Panowitz

410-456-5276

skip.panowitz@vahoo.com

Webmaster

Steve Kelley

443-371-3030

skelley@gottogotravel.net

Sunshine Lady

Peg Long

410-569-8539

peglong3@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Phyllis Cherry 410-747-1209

Ray Raeke 410- 676-6055

Ron Hill 410-569-0106

Tom Young* 410- 653-3108

Skip Panowitz* 410-456-5276

*Past President

**Deadline for submitting
Newsletter photos, articles,
etc., is the 20th of each
month.**

MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club



MATC THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

47TH ANNIVERSARY

<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org/>

<http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/>



Happy New Year To All MATC Members & Their Families

This Month In *Thunderbird* History:

-January 3, 1999: 2002 Thunderbird Concept introduced at North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit.

-January 8, 2001: Dealer order bank opens for 2002 Thunderbirds.

Upcoming MATC Activities

January 16: Board of Directors Planning Meeting

The MATC Board of Directors will be meeting to plan activities and events for 2021. Please submit your ideas or suggestions to Cathy & Steve **no later than January 14th** for consideration. This is your club and your ideas are welcome and encouraged.

JANUARY 21: MATC ZOOM Meeting

Zoom Video calls are in lieu of our monthly breakfast meeting. Calls will be on the third Thursday at 9:30am. You will be sent a Zoom link a few days before. The next Zoom Meeting is January 21, 2021. Hope you can join us!!

Annual Dues Reminder.

Because of the reduced activities in 2020 the MATC Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to **waive membership dues for 2021**. Please do not send your dues to Treasurer Harry Skruch. If you have already sent your dues, he will shred your check or return it to you if you prefer. Harry is still accepting checks for Miracle League of Harford County donations and for name tags.

Due to the Corona Virus, the events listed below may be cancelled. Look for Schedule updates

2021 TENTATIVE EVENTS CALENDAR

Official MATC/ITC activities are marked with *** and printed in bold. Our Thunderbird Club events are open to all years of Thunderbirds. Other events such as "AACA" events adhere to the 25 year rule or other designation. Applicable restrictions will be noted with each event.

Date	Event	Sponsor	Location	Details
January 16 9-11 AM	MATC Board of Directors Planning Meeting	***MATC	ZOOM	
January 21 9:30 AM	MATC Zoom Meeting	***MATC	Your home or other favorite place	Call In details will be provided by email
February TBD	MATC Kick-Off Meeting	***MATC		
March 13	CRAACA Antique Auto Parts Flea Market	CRAACA	Howard Co Fairgrounds Rt 144, W. Friendship	https://chesapeakeaaca.org/pages/activities/flyers/2021fleamarket.pdf
April TBD	Romancing The Chrome		Jarrett's Field Jarrettsville, MD	
April 21-25	Spring Carlisle Flea Market, Corral & Auction	Carlisle Events	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	CarlisleEvents.com
May TBD	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD	
May 20-23	Cruisin OC	Cruisin OC	Ocean City, MD	https://specialeventpro.com/cruising-ocean-city
June 4-6	All Ford Nationals (Register with Lehigh Valley TBird Club as club affiliation)	Carlisle Events	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	https://carlisleevents.com/events/event-detail/index?id=ford+nationals
June TBD	Bel Air UMC Car Show	BAUMC	21 Linwood Ave Bel Air, MD 21014	www.belairumc.org
July TBD	Potluck Social Hoisted by Dan & Zoeanne Denham	***MATC	Hydes, MD	
September TBD	Potluck Social Hosted by Phyllis & John Cherry	***MATC	Cascade, MD	
September 29 – October 3	Fall Carlisle Flea Market, Corral & Auction	Carlisle Events	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	CarlisleEvents.com
October 6-9	AACA Eastern Fall Nationals	AACA	Hershey, PA	AACA.org
October 16	Rockville, MD Antique & Classic Car Show	***MATC	Rockville Center Pk 603 Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20851	https://10times.com/rockville-antique-and-classic-car-show
December TBD	MATC Annual Christmas Party	***MATC	TBD	Keep your fingers crossed!!
Third Thursday Monthly	Monthly Breakfast Gathering . Will Resume after COVID 19 hazard ends	***MATC	Greek Village Diner 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071

Note: The calendar includes prospective events based on prior year calendar input and activities. Those that are not certain are listed as dates TBD. The calendar will be revised to add specific details, or the event deleted, as applicable. As always, we welcome information on new events and activities to add to the calendar.



Looking Forward To Those Great Fun Club Gatherings Again!!!!

January Birthdays

Note: If we missed your January birthday, or the specific date noted is incorrect or missing, please advise the editor with the correct information. Thanks!

Cathy Kelley -
Peg Long - 5

Welcome Aboard To Our New Members

No new members for December. Please remember to carry and use the MATC recruitment business cards and/or a membership application to distribute to perspective members. If you need more of the cards or applications please contact a MATC officer.

Member News:

As previously reported, **MATC** treasurer **Harry Skruch** has had more than his fair share of hospital stays and setbacks recently. He has had two hospital stays totaling over a month plus a week of PT/rehab. But he is now doing much better. He will be completing at home physical therapy soon but is still getting dialysis three times per week. He thanks MATC members for the cards, phone calls and well wishes. And in true car guy fashion he is anxious to wash his cars and get the oil changed.

MATC VP **Mike Melnyk** and his wife **Barbara** have both contracted the COVID 19 virus. Barbara has pretty much recovered and is back to her regular schedule. Unfortunately, Mike has been hospitalized for several weeks and expects this to continue for another week or so. He is feeling much better as of December 31st and expects to be relocated to the rehab center in the facility soon. He misses Barb – she has not been able to visit him since December 7th. Mike would appreciate hearing from members. He can be reached at phone number 610-574-5738. Because he could be relocated or released soon, cards and well wishes should be sent to his home address: 2938 Penn Square Road, Norriton, PA 19401.

Our sunshine lady, **Peg Long**, also contracted the virus but she too has recuperated at home.

This is sad news. Although not a MATC member some of you knew Ron McLoud. Ron was a member of TBN as well as several local to Tennessee TBird clubs, CTCI and ITC. Ron, a victim of COVID 19, passed away on December 23rd. He had been on a ventilator for over a week, generally at maximum capacity. He retired as a Ford executive after 30 years service. He had been the #2 guy at several assembly plants, including those building Thunderbirds. He owned 12, yes 12, retro Birds. He always tried to obtain the highest or lowest VIN number for the specific color of car he was seeking. His goal was to take all 12 cars to the lower 48 states. He, along with his friend Liz, had achieved this for about 6 of them I think. They seemed to always be on the road based on their Facebook posts. Ron was the ultimate Thunderbird aficionado. He will be missed.

Best wishes for a quick and successful recovery for our members. Our prayers and condolences to the McLoud family.

Please submit your news, special occasions, etc., to the editor for publication in the Newsletter to keep the membership up to date on member happenings, health and well being.

CLASSIFIEDS

1964 Thunderbird: Older restoration and still shows and runs well. Wimbledon White with a black landau roof and black interior. Has power windows and power driver seat. Recliner passenger seat with head rest. Owned by same family since 1965. Have documented history from restoration in 1998 to present. Call Earl or Judy Dickinson @ 717 767 2973. (9/19)



003 Thunderbird: Red Hardtop, Steve Kelley 443-371-3030, skelley@gottogotravel.net (1/18) See car here: www.classicautomall.com/vehicles/2003-ford-thunderbird-convertible



1966 Thunderbird Convertible: Red with Red Interior and White Top. 390 CID Engine, Power Steering, Power Brakes, Electric Windows. Lots of New Parts. 80,000 Miles, \$28,000. Richard Trimble, Hampstead, Telephone: 410 – 374 – 6037 (3/20)

1987 Thunderbird Sport 5.0:



5.0 EFI. V-8, AOD Automatic transmission, 8.8 rear different, Full digital dash, PB, PS, PW, Power locks, Power driver's seat, Power mirrors, Power trunk release, Power fuel door release, Cruise control, Tilt steering wheel, Alloy wheels (including extra matching wheel), K&N air filter, Mac shorty headers (not installed), Alarm system (disconnected when car was parked), Mileage is showing 130284, battery replaced in 2019, New fuel filter, New starter solenoid, includes a TurboCoupe Hood, extra passenger side door, Owners manuals, Original warranty data card, Radio book, Showroom brochure, Litter bag the owner's manuals came in, original key tags, 1 set of original keys and a few sets of after-market, some invoices. Car starts and runs. Car located in NJ. Asking \$1500.

Contact: Tommy Swieder, must93stanggt@gmail.com, Cell 856 301 0227, Work 732 730-1780 (12/20)

In Case You Missed This In Time For Christmas:



- **Solid pewter 1:18 model of 1955 Ford Thunderbird. This is very rare and one of only 30 produced. A great collectible. These have sold for as much as \$150+. Price: \$100 including shipping.**

As usual, many, many other Thunderbird collectibles and memorabilia are available. The list is being updated but will be available soon. Let me know what you are interested in. (1/21) *Skip*

Note: Classified ads are inserted at no cost for MATC members until the item is sold as long as there is enough space. Non-member cost to advertise is \$10 for three months. This policy is subject to change.

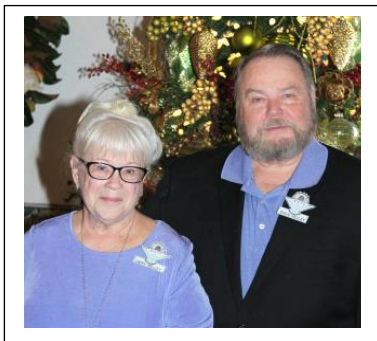


MATC Community Outreach

Our Community Outreach partner is the **Harford Miracle League**. Even though Christmas Dinner was canceled, please contribute to this very unique and worthwhile organization. They have completed the athletic field and have had some very limited, controlled use within COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and guidelines. The field is designed to give those who are handicapped an opportunity to participate in popular sports. They are looking forward to having MATC members visit the facility as soon as it is fully operational and safe to do. Below is a photograph of the completed field. Please send your donation made payable to Miracle League of Harford County Harry Skruch, 4804 Torpoint Rd, Nottingham MD 21236. .



Miracle League of Harford County



President's Message January 2021

We were so disappointed that we had to send you all emails to say the club had decided to cancel the annual Christmas Dinner last month. The Friendly Farm Restaurant is such a wonderful place to eat that we were sure it was going to be a great time. Upticks in the COVID numbers caused us to be extra cautious. We hope you all had a great Christmas with your families.

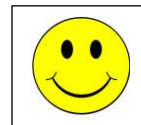
Some of us were recovering from COVID through the holiday. In case you had not heard, our VP, Mike Melnyk was hospitalized with the virus and is currently in rehab. We are hoping he is home soon and feeling much better. His wife, Barb, also had the virus, but was able to recuperate at home. We hope she is also better soon. Our sunshine lady, Peg Long, also contracted the virus but she too recuperated at home. Best wishes to everyone for a speedy recovery.

Our treasurer, Harry Skruch, is home again after his latest stint in the hospital. Hoping he feels stronger soon.

We thank those that sent a check to support our charity this past year, the Miracle League of Harford County, which has built a sports field outside of Bel Air for players of all abilities. In other words, it is meant to give handicapped or challenged players a chance to enjoy sports, mostly baseball. They can use our support for maintenance of the field and supplies once the quarantine is lifted. You can still send a check if you would like to Harry Skruch, 4804 Torpoint Rd, Nottingham MD 21236, made out to Miracle League of Harford County.

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and we're wishing you a Happy New Year in 2021. Praying that everyone stays safe and healthy so we can have some good times! Don't forget the Board decided to waive the dues for 2021. You're welcome!

If the virus continues to keep us in quarantine we will probably have our Board Meeting via Zoom, sometime in January. We'll have to see what happens before we schedule our first General Member Meeting in February. We really want to see your smiling faces.



As usual, be sure to check the MATC website, <https://midatlantictbirdclub.org/>, and our Face Book page. Send Steve photos of your cars too, especially you new members.

Steve & Cathy Kelley

Aston Martin Used This Ford Thunderbird To Develop The V8 Vantage

by  **Brett Foote**
November 16, 2020,

When most people think of the Ford Thunderbird, they envision the beautiful, timeless design of [the first-generation model of the mid-1950s](#). But as most also know, the Thunderbird went on to live for eleven total generations in a variety of forms. And while the tenth-generation model of the late 1990s may not get a lot of love from enthusiasts, it was apparently good enough for Aston Martin to use as a benchmark. We know this because the owner of this particular Thunderbird recently discovered that his car was used by Aston Martin during the development process for its V8 Vantage model at the time. He received an actual letter back from the luxury performance automaker confirming this fact, which was recently posted, along with a few pictures of the Thunderbird, in the [RADwood Facebook group](#). Granted, it wasn't like Aston was looking to mimic the Thunderbird's design or drivetrain, but rather its engine management control software. The new-at-the-time V8 Vantage was slated to use the same level of Ford's engine management control, and like the Aston, was also supercharged. Thus, the automaker became the first official owner of the Thunderbird back in 1989 and even used it as a "pool car" for various staff members at the time. As the automaker points out in the letter, it is very unusual for an engineering development vehicle to make it this far in life unscathed. The Thunderbird obviously isn't perfect, but it does appear to be in very solid condition. The owner now plans on restoring the car, after which Aston hopes that it can once again make an appearance at the automaker's historic Newport Pagnell plant in England. Talk about coming full circle!





Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

"A Club for Enthusiasts of the Ford Thunderbird of all years"

Application for Membership

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Birth Month _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Birth Month _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Home: ____ - ____ - _____ Work: ____ - ____ - _____ Cell: ____ - ____ - _____

Email: _____

Your Occupation: _____ Spouse's Occupation: _____

I was referred by: _____

List Your Thunderbirds:

Car	Year	Style (HT, Conv, Landau, etc.)	Comment (Show, Pleasure, Under Restoration, etc.)
1			
2			
3			
4			
Attach additional sheet if necessary.			

Annual Dues: \$25.00 due each January, newsletter delivered electronically, or
\$40.00 due each January, newsletter delivered by US Postal Service

New Members Partial Year Dues:

\$15.00 if joining after June 1st of the year

Full dues if joining after October 1st of the year, BUT

IT INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR DUES (3 months Free)

Name Tags \$10.00 each: _____

Please PRINT names for tags above. Separate by comma if more than one.

Send to: Make your check payable to **MATC.**

Please Mail Application with your check to:

Harry Skruch, Treasurer

4804 Torpoint Road

Nottingham, MD 21236

410-256-2740

Visit us at www.midatlantictbirdclub.org

Like us on Facebook

The Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club is a Tax-exempt Association under IRC 501 (c) (7).

Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club
9 Lake Drive
Bel Air, MD 21014

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Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club

