

December 2021/
January 2022

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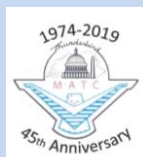
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**Deadline for submitting
Newsletter photos, articles,
etc., is the 20th of each
month.**

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



MATC THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER 47TH ANNIVERSARY

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



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
To All MATC Members & Their Families*

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **December 13, 1957:** The last 1957 Thunderbird is produced. It was replaced by the 4-place model in for 1958. Two place Thunderbirds would not be produced again until 2002.
- **January 3, 1999:** Retro Bird concept introduced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.
- **January 8, 2001:** Order bank opens for 2002 Thunderbird.

Mark Your Calendars-Upcoming MATC Activities

- **Sunday, February 6, 2022: Annual Kick-Off Meeting**

This annual event will again be held at the Bel Air United Methodist Church. Specific details will be provided in the February newsletter.

Annual Dues Reminder.

Please send your dues to Treasurer Harry Skruch if you have not already sent them in. Also, Harry is still accepting checks for Miracle League of Harford County donations and for name tags.



Presidents' Message December 2021

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We want to thank all of you who met at Friendly Farm Restaurant for our Christmas Dinner on Dec 11. We had covid in our family so stayed home and it is a good thing because our test results came in Sunday morning as positive. But we understand the food was good and everyone had a good time. We presented Skip with the 2021 President's Award and Ray Raeke a special award for his many years as a valuable board member.

We send prayers to all those folks who could not make it due to health reasons.

MATC did a good job of recovering in 2021 after the vaccines became available, and some before, via Zoom. Here is a recap:

1. Kick off meeting in February via Zoom was well attended.
2. Romancing the Chrome in April saw both Doug Read and Skip win awards. Dan Luber won at the Moose show.
3. Thunderbird Appreciation Day was celebrated in May with a picnic.
4. All Ford Nationals in June saw some MATC folks attending, including Dan Luber, the Ridolfis, Tom & John Young and Skip.
5. The AACA event to honor Skip's long presidency of the club was in June and was very well attended.
6. MATC had five cars in the Towson 4th of July Parade.
7. Dan & Zoeanne hosted their annual picnic in July.
8. John and Phyllis Cherry hosted their annual 'Cherry Festival' in September.
9. We led a Covered Bridge Ride and lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in PA in September.
10. MATC had a get-away with the New Jersey Tbird club in Ocean Grove, NJ in October.
11. Throughout the spring and summer some of us attended and volunteered at games for our charity, Miracle League of Harford Co.
12. Our Third Thursday Tbird Breakfast continued throughout the year, some early months with coffee on a Zoom call, then back in person at the Greek Village in Bel Air starting in the summer.

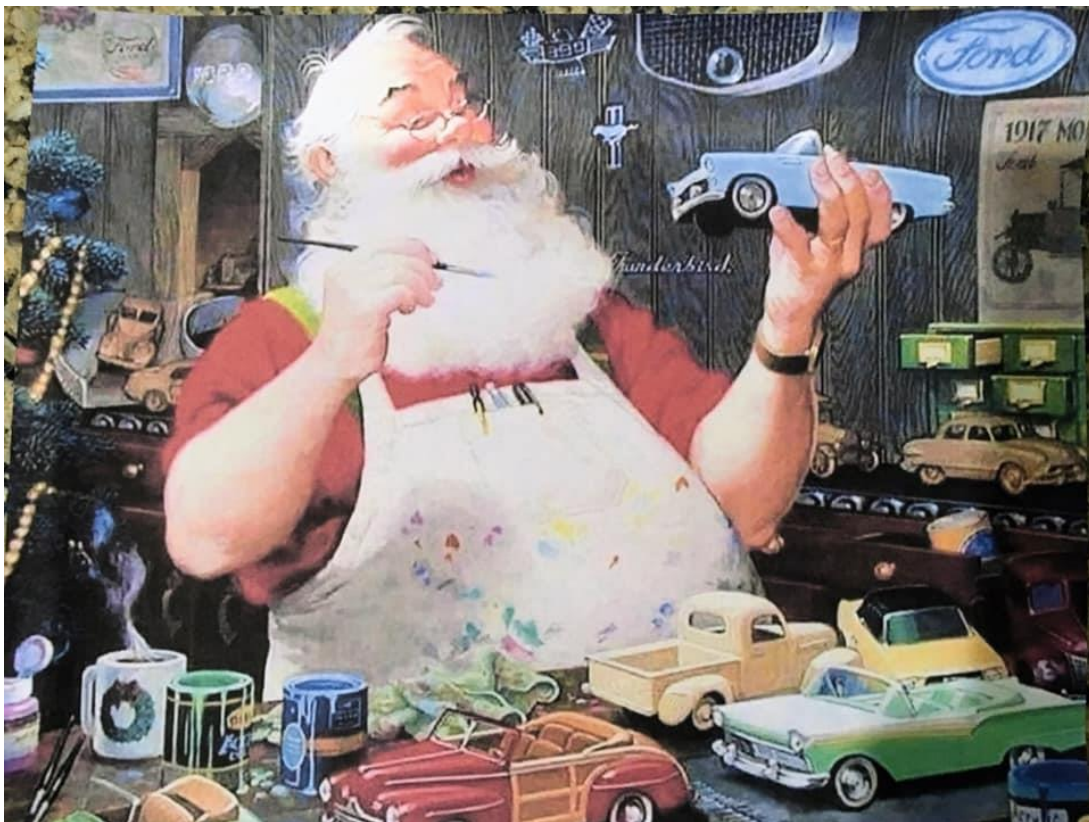
Hopefully 2022 will continue to be as busy and exciting. We appreciate all the enthusiasm and support from so many members.

Results of the election in November are this: Mike Melnyk is vice-president, Harry Skruch is Treasurer and the board opening from Ray Raeke stepping down has been filled by Tom Young.

We are planning our General Member meeting for Sunday, February 6, 2022. Please plan to join us there. Bring a potluck dish and have some fun.

We had a board meeting in August to approve the updates being made to the by-laws. A few edits are still in the works, but members should soon receive an email copy to review and approve. We will include a date to have your reply to approve or disapprove. We are attempting to make the by-laws match the way the club works today and we will be creating a Policies and Procedures Manual soon after.

*Happy Holidays,
Cathy & Steve*



2022 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	Additional Information
February 6, 2022	MATC Kick-off Meeting	MATC	Bel Air United Methodist Church	Details will be provided in the February Newsletter
May thru October	Cars & Coffee: No Competition, No Trophies, Just Fun & Socialization		Bel Air Plaza SC Bel Air, MD	7-9 Am, Every Sunday Weather permitting
April thru October	Weekly Cruise Night		Arctic Circle Drive In Churchville, MD	Wednesday Evenings Weather Permitting
June 3-5, 2022	All Ford Nationals	Carlisle Events	Fairgrounds Carlisle PA	Reduced Price Registration Fees Before January 1, 2022.
May 15, 2022	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	TBD	TBD	TBD
May 19-22, 2022	Cruisin' OC	Cruisin' OC	Ocean City, MD	infoevent@specialeventpro.com
October 6-9 2022	Endless Summer Cruisin'	Cruisin' OC	Ocean City, MD	infoevent@specialeventpro.com
October 2022 Date TBD	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
November	Election of Officers	MATC		Ballot Included with Newsletter
December 4, 2022	MATC Annual Christmas Party	***MATC	Friendly Farms Upperco, MD	Details To Be Provided Later
Third Thursday 9:30 AM Monthly	Monthly Breakfast Gathering	***MATC	Greek Village Diner 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071

There are many car shows and cruise nights in our service area on a weekly basis. Some of the more popular events are listed above. Please also check out the complete list of events on the Car Show & Cruise Guide website @ www.cruiseguide.com. If you know of a "local" show that you think will be of interest to our membership please provide the information to Skip.

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miracleleagueharford.org

Thank you for your financial and personal support of this great important program. As soon as information is available for the 2022 season, we will include it in the newsletter. It will also be available on the Miracle League of Harford County website.

Birthdays



The officers and members of MATC wish the following members a very happy birthday

December

Cathy Kelley Peg Long Alice Hydorn Dan Luber Audrey Vandell

January

Rose Amato Gregg Jensen Gail Thomas Earl Zastrow

Note: If we missed your birthday, please advise the editor. We are sorry for the oversight. Thanks!

Welcome Aboard to Our New Members:

Ben Wisher, Potomac, MD: 1966 convertible for pleasure

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 any MATC officer.

MEMBER NEWS & HAPPENINGS:

- It was great to see Lynn Horn, MATC Secretary, ambulatory without assistance at the Christmas party. It has been a long Hall for her, and I know she is happy to be on her feet again.
- John Cherry has had a setback in his medical situation and has been hospitalized. Phyllis advises that his condition has improved. We wish him all the best for continued improvement.
- Several of our members are continuing to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include John Cherry, Dan Denham, Mike Melnyk, Ray Raeke and Harry Skruch. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes for a quick, complete, and successful recovery for our members.

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. Remember, inquiring minds want to know!

Who's Who In MATC

Featured Member(s): Celeste & Harry Skruch



Harry and Celeste lifelong Baltimoreans who met at a wedding reception fifty-four years ago and were married the following year. Harry was a research engineer who retired from the Department of Defense after a 40-year career developing shipboard machinery. Celeste retired as a medical transcriptionist after fifteen years as a stay-at-home mom for our two daughters. They now spend their time enjoying their four grandchildren, keeping up with house and yard work, maintaining the family fleet of Fords, and MATC events.

Harry became a MATC member in a somewhat unusual manner. Former MATC president, Skip Panowitz, was undergoing rehab from knee surgery at the Good Samaritan hospital and wearing a retro Thunderbird t-shirt. The Skruch's youngest daughter, who was a physical therapist there, spotted the shirt and told him *"My dad has one of those cars."* The rest as they say is history.

Since becoming a member, Harry has been a board member and currently serves as MATC treasurer. Celeste has served MATC as the holiday favor coordinator. They also belonged to a Taurus SHO club. Harry's interest in Fords was cultivated by a long-time friendship with the owner of the Norris Ford group. His first T-Bird was a 77-jade green purchased in the Fall of seventy-six. At that time, it was relegated to daily driver duty as a growing family limited car activities. The current retro Platinum 04 was purchased in August of 04 when his friends at Norris Ford made him an offer he could not refuse.

Since joining MATC and later ITC, Harry and Celeste have made new friends at social events and club conventions and seen parts of the country we only dreamed about. Contrary to popular belief, the Retro T-Birds have enough baggage space for a three-week cross-country trip. Their Bird now has 65K miles, made three cross country trips and has climbed Pikes Peak, Mt Evans, and Mt Washington—it is no trailer queen.

Harry and Celeste plan to stay involved with MATC for many of the reasons stated above, but primarily for the friends we have made. Harry's future involvement may be somewhat limited

because of an ongoing health issue, but we look forward to participating as much as possible, especially in the monthly breakfast meetings.

MATC Christmas Party 2021



**Treasurer Harry Skruch Presents Ray Raeke
Award Recognizing His Long Service to MATC**

**Treasurer Harry Skruch Presents 2012 "Presidents'
Award to Skip Panowitz**



The 2021 version of the MATC Annual Christmas Party was well attended although several members could not attend because of illness, COVID and otherwise. The new location was well received by the participants. Several indicated that they appreciated the closer proximity so they would not be driving home in the dark. The food and socialization were great. Special recognition was given to Ray Raeke for his nearly 40 years of service to MATC during which time he served as a member of the Board of Directors.

Several of our members were unable to participate this year because of date and other conflicts. They celebrated at the Dobbin House in Gettysburg, PA. We hope to all be able to celebrate together again in 2022.



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)



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)

2002 Thunderbird Premium: Evening Black with charcoal interior. Original Owners. No major repairs. Regular service. Never modified. Includes roof storage rack and car cover. Battery replaced within the last two years. It has always been stored inside a heated building. Asking \$22,000. Negotiable. Located at 2730 Spring Hill Lane, Enola, PA. Tom & Mary Jo Sharretts: Mary Jo: 216-219-5468, Tom: 717-378-0671 (8/21)





1978 Diamond Jubilee Thunderbird

Rare bird indeed! No rust. No wrecks. Garaged its entire life. New A/C compressor and condenser coil with thermal clutch switch added and all upgraded to R134a. New fuel tank, tie rod ends, air shocks with onboard compressor. Power windows, power trunk release work. Power seats work. Power locks need new solenoids in door. Cruise control works but will creep up in speed. Clock does not work. Car has been resprayed at some point. Small dent in hood and upper windshield trim (see in pictures). I purchased from the daughter of the original owner. Selling because it is kept in storage and owner does not get to drive it as much as hoped. Mileage: 84,500; Asking price: \$11,900

Contact: Greg Simmons: email:vtgregory67@gmail.com (preferred contact method); phone:443-203-8603

(1/22)



A

B

T-Shirts

While They Last!

A = 45th MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L, XL, XXL; \$15 each - 2 for \$25 plus S&H

B = Retro TBird Logo T-Shirt; XXL only; \$10 each plus S&H

Thelma & Louise TBird Collectible Models **Coming Late 2021**



UPDATE: Greenlight will be producing several versions of the Thelma & Louise '66 Thunderbird in their Hollywood Cars series later this year. There will be 1:64 and 1:43 versions, top up and top down. I have just learned that there will also be a '64 hardtop in red and '65 convertible in black. I will have some of each when they become available. I am not certain of pricing yet as it will be affected by increasing shipping costs. Figure about \$7-8 for the 1:64 and \$17-18 for the 1:43. Promotional and packaging photos are attached. Let me know if you think you might be interested. I do not order this stuff, even TBird items, in large quantities like before because of the constantly changing item and shipping costs. I hope to have them in time for the Christmas gathering but that does not look promising right now.

Skip (10/21)

Shop Equipment

MATC Member Ron Davis is assisting a friend in selling some used shop equipment. The items include a blasting cabinet and the paint booth with a separate photo of the ventilator at the top of the paint booth. This is a stand-up booth for painting small parts. The contact person is Karen Holmes who wants to sell the equipment at any reasonable "best offer". Her phone # is (703) 403-2075. She lives in the Burke, Va. area of Fairfax County.



Note: Classified ads are inserted at no cost for MATC members until the item is sold depending on space. Non-member cost to advertise is complimentary for the first month then \$10 for each three months thereafter. This policy is subject to change.

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12/10/2019

Ford drops 2-seat Thunderbird for 'Square Bird'

Automotive News

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December 10, 2019 12:08 PM | UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO

Ford drops 2-seat Thunderbird for 'Square Bird'

DAVID PHILLIPS



TWEET



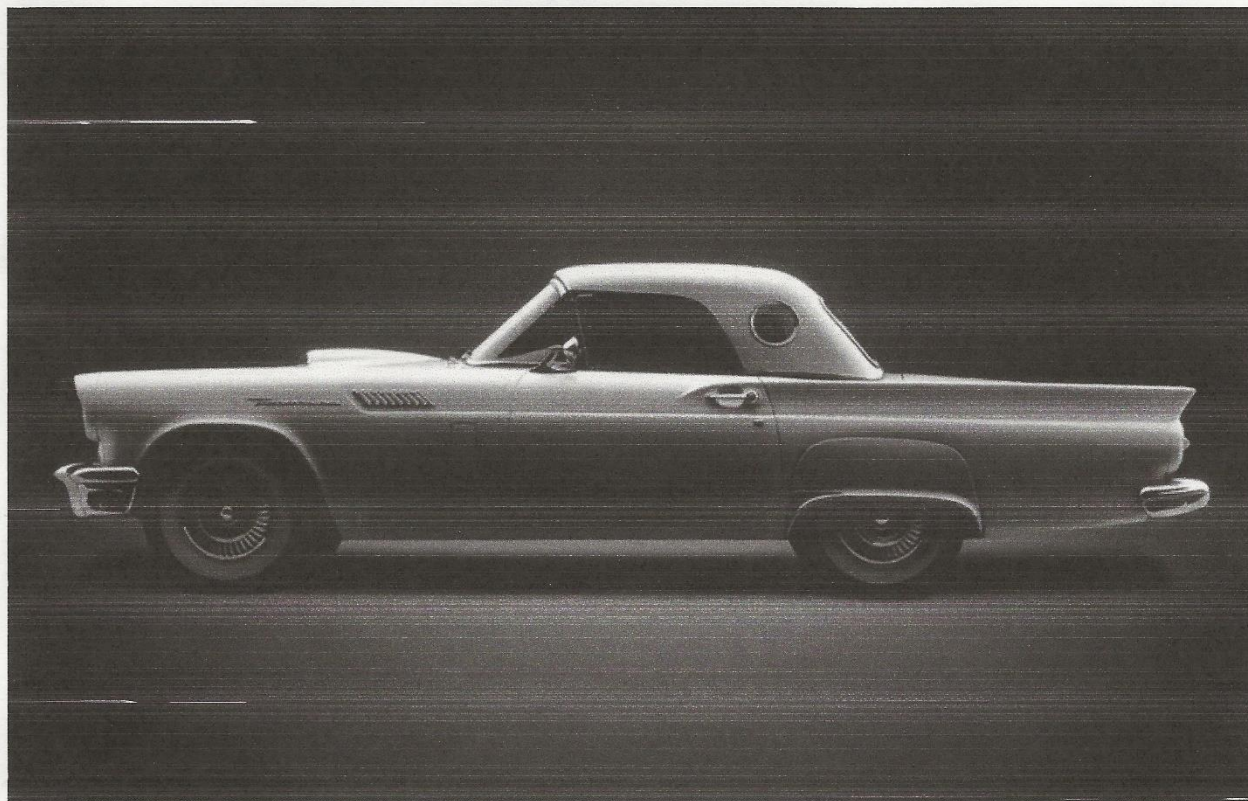
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FORD MOTOR CO.

A 1957 Ford Thunderbird.

The last of Ford Motor Co.'s two-seat Thunderbirds is built Dec. 13, 1957, as production shifts to the larger, second-generation, four-seat "Square Bird."

While there are various tales about the Thunderbird's origins, it was largely created to compete with Chevrolet's Corvette. Ford designers began sketching the car in the fall of 1952. That was more than a year after consulting designer George Walker and Henry Ford II strolled through the 1951 Paris auto show and decided that Ford should imitate the snazzy European roadsters on display.

The first Thunderbird prototype was completed Feb. 19, 1954, and it was introduced the next day at the Detroit auto show. Ford began building the Thunderbird the following fall, and it officially went on sale as a 1955 model on Oct. 22, 1954.

For the 1956 model year, the car received a 12-volt electrical system, the famous porthole hardtop and a "continental kit" — a covered spare tire perched on the rear bumper. Larger but graceful tail fins arrived for 1957. The 1957 Thunderbird was the last two-seater Ford sold until the 1982 Ford EXP sport compact car.

4-seat success

The second-generation four-seat Thunderbird was produced for the 1958 to 1960 model years as a successor to the popular 1955-57 two-seater. Responding to company surveys, Ford made two major changes to the Thunderbird to attract more buyers: two rear seats were added, and the amount of luxury and features of a full-size car were incorporated into a midsize platform. Because it weighed more than a big Ford sedan, it also lost some of its sports car zeal.

But sales soared, and the new model dramatically expanded the personal luxury car market. Over 200,000 Thunderbirds were produced during the three-year model run, quadruple that of the two-seater over a three-year span.

Along with the 1958 Lincolns, the '58 Thunderbird was the first Ford Motor vehicle designed with unibody construction.

Over time, Ford designed and engineered 11 generations of the Thunderbird. The final Thunderbird, produced from 2001 to 2005, paid homage to the original cars of the mid-1950s.



Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

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

Application for Membership

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Birth month: _____
 Spouses Name: _____ Birth month: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home _____ - _____ - _____ Work _____ - _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____ - _____
 Email: _____
 Your occupation _____ Spouse occupation _____

I was referred by: _____

List your Thunderbirds:

Car	Year	Style (HT, Conv, Landau, color)	Use (show, pleasure, restoring)	VIN
1				
2				
3				
4				

Annual Dues \$25 due each January, newsletter delivered electronically, or
 \$40 due each January, newsletter delivered via US Postal Service

New Members Partial Dues:

\$15 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 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 Rd.; Nottingham, MD 21236; 410-256-2740

Visit us at www.midatlantictbirdclub.org Like us on Facebook: mid-Atlantic thunderbird club

The Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club is a tax-exempt Association under IRC 501 (c) (7).
 (Revised January 2021)

Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

9 Lake Drive

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