

January 2023

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\*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 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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



### This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **January 3, 1999:** The "retro" Thunderbird is introduced at the Detroit Car Show.
- **January 8, 2002:** Order bank opens for the 2002 Thunderbird.

**Thursday – January 19, @ 9:30 AM - Third Thursday TBird Breakfast**  
**Greek Village Restaurant - 129 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, MD 21014**

### **2023 Kick-Off Meeting and \$2 Pot-Luck Social** **Sunday, February 26 - 1:00 PM**

*Inclement Weather Date: TBD*

**RSVP: Cathy Kelley, 443-417-0441, [cathykelley49@gmail.com](mailto:cathykelley49@gmail.com) by February 4th**

This is a general membership meeting to socialize and solicit club members input for events for 2023 in preparation for the officers planning meeting in March. We request a \$2 contribution to help offset meeting expenses. If rescheduling is required due to inclement weather or COVID issues members will be contacted by phone and/or email. Also see the MATC Website or call a club officer. Please note that the meeting will be in Room 202 in the education building. Elevator service to the second floor is available. Once the upper parking lot entrance is entered, drive past the church and social hall. Entrance to the building requires going down a flight of stairs or adjacent ramp. Please bring a mask for possible use.

**Bel Air United Methodist Church, Room 202**

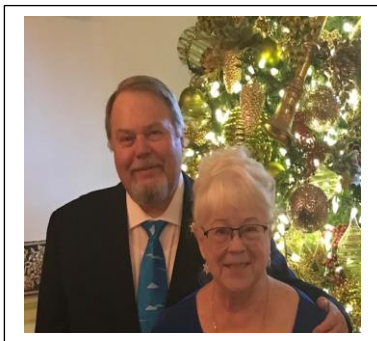
**21 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014**

*(at the intersection of Rt. 924/Main St & Linwood Ave )*

*Please bring a Pot-Luck Dish in the category designated by the first letter of your last name:*

**"H to P" Salad "Q-Z" Main "A to G" Dessert**

**Please RSVP: Cathy Kelley, 443-417-0441, [cathykelley49@gmail.com](mailto:cathykelley49@gmail.com) by February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



## President's Message January 2023

### Happy New Year!

We've started a new year and hope the club is as active as in the past. In case you didn't know, we are now an affiliated chapter of Vintage Thunderbird Club International. Several of our MATC members have been VTCl members for years. They have 43 chapters, and we think that might give MATC an opportunity to find events that we might want to join.

We hope to see as many of you as can make it to the Members Kick-Off meeting, Sunday, Feb 26 at 1pm at the Bel Air Methodist Church in Bel Air MD so mark your calendar now. Please see details above. This is a chance to meet other members and hear and contribute to upcoming events. There will be opportunities to volunteer for some fun tasks, like reconnaissance trips to check out venues for outings, help set up activities for Thunderbird Appreciation Day, planning a group outing to the Rockville Car show in the fall, etc. We always welcome your ideas.

Continue to keep the Denhams and the Raekes in your thoughts and prayers as Dan and Ray decline. Our treasurer, Frank Long, is also undergoing some medical issues and needs our prayers. On a positive note (hold on, you will see the pun in a second), Steve has had his Electric Spinal Stimulator implanted and the battery is activated. Hoping for decreased pain in his back and legs in the near future.

Stay warm and well and keep those 'Birds safe too,

*Cathy & Steve*

## 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
Third Thursday 9:30 AM Monthly	Monthly Breakfast Gathering	***MATC	Greek Village Diner 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071</a>
February 26	MATC Kick-Off Meeting	***MATC	Bel Air UMC	See cover page for Details
April thru October	Miracle League of Harford Co	MLHC	Shuck's Road Athletic Facility – Churchville, MD	Details To Be Provided As Available
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 30	British On The Green Car Show	***MATC	Guston Hall Lorton, VA	More Details Forthcoming
May 21	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD	More Details Later
June 2-4	All Ford Nationals	Carlisle Events	Carlisle PA	Carlisle events.com
November	Election of Officers	***MATC		Consider running for an office
December 3	MATC Annual Christmas Party	***MATC	Friendly Farms Restaurant	More Details Later

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](http://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.



### 2023 Season Schedule

Information For The 2023 Season Will Be Provided As  
Soon As It Is Available.

**[miracleleagueharford.org](http://miracleleagueharford.org)**

*If you have not yet submitted your contribution to this great Community Supprt program it is not too late. Please send your contribution to treasurer Frank long by Feburay 1, 2023. And plan to visit one of the games this year. You ay be amazed what is accomplished with folks with disdabilities that would not be able to actively participate in sports otherwise.*

## **January Birthdays**



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

**Cathy Kelly      Peg Long      Dan Luber**

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

### **Welcome To Our New Members:**

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:**

- Please continue to keep long time MATC member and Board of Directors member Ray Raeke, and Jean, in your thoughts and prayers. Ray continues in the care of home healthcare and hospice personnel.
- Steve Dameron continues to recover from shoulder surgery and doing well. He continues to undergo PT and has a doctor follow-up the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. We wish him a continued successful recovery.
- MATC Treasurer Frank Long is recovering at home after recently spending time in the ICU at Upper Chesapeake Hospital with kidney failure. His care briefly included dialysis and other treatment. Frank indicates that he is doing very well now and feels better than he has in months. He has a follow-up the week of January 8<sup>th</sup> and hopes to get a good report. Frank can be contacted at 410-569-8539 or [flong1@hotmail.com](mailto:flong1@hotmail.com).
- Co-President Steve Kelly is recuperating at home after having a rather unique procedure to help address significant back pain he was experiencing. Steve had an electric spinal stimulator with pain monitor surgically implanted in mid- December. So far the procedure has been successful and giving Steve the relief he hoped for. The staples are to be removed on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cathy states that Steve is now "all charged up".
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham and Mike Melnyk. 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!*

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

**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)



**2005 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cashmere Thunderbird:** MATC friends and Thunderbird enthusiasts Sandi & Walt Fries are selling their 2005 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cashmere Edition Ford Thunderbird. Owned since new, the car has 23,330 mostly highway mile, plus custom features including color-keyed car cover, boot, seat covers, dash cover and front-end cover. Asking price is \$32,500. Contact Walt at 610-759-4997 (h), 484-515-4008 or

[wfriesjr@aol.com](mailto:wfriesjr@aol.com)

(1/23)



**1955 Thunderbird:** Frame off restoration, 3 speed transmission, soft and hardtops, white, 38,000 miles, asking \$43,000. Contact Steven Roemer @ 484-716-5992 or

[stevenroemer@comcast.net](mailto:stevenroemer@comcast.net)

(1/23)

*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.*



# FORD TECH SAYS AFTERMARKET IGNITION COILS ARE NO GOOD

By [Alexandra Purcell](#), Ford Authority  
December 17, 2022



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## SPONSORED

Veteran Ford technician Brian, who runs the automotive repair YouTube channel known as Ford Tech Makuloco, makes informative videos explaining his repair processes and the reasoning behind them. In the past, he's walked viewers through a [starter issue diagnosis on a 2006 Ford F-150](#), given an in-depth [explanation of the Ford battery monitoring system](#) on F-150s and shown his process for [figuring out a heater core issue](#) on another pickup. He also takes the time to explain [why he doesn't like to use certain parts](#), and in a recent video, he tells viewers why he stays away from using aftermarket ignition coils.



Brian had a “comeback” 2013 Ford F-150 return to his shop after quite a bit of work, presenting with a misfire. The Ford tech carefully inspected all of his work and found that the misfire was not because of anything he had done, but rather because of the poor quality of the aftermarket ignition coils previously installed on the vehicle.

“I’m here to say stick with OEM,” he says. “From the factory, [OEM coils] do not fail that often, if at all.” He explains that often, customers will get frustrated while chasing a misfire, and choose to “upgrade” to aftermarket ignition coils in an attempt to remedy the situation. While aftermarket coils may solve the problem at first, they are liable to fail shortly after installation.

To prove his point, the Ford tech swaps the misfiring F-150’s aftermarket coils with an old set of coils he removed from a vehicle with an EcoBoost engine at the request of a customer. Brian knew the coils were still good and hung onto them for testing purposes. Once he swaps the old FoMoCo coils into the vehicle, it runs fine.

“Avoid the marketing hype with these aftermarket ignition parts,” he concludes.

## ***To OEM or Not To OEM***

The above articles addresses the age-old dilemma that owners of special interest cars or trucks routinely must deal with – whether to use OEM or aftermarket replacement parts. No matter if it is a late model car or a vintage vehicle. Sometimes there is no choice as only aftermarket parts are available. But with later model cars, such as our retro Thunderbirds, there are often options, especially regarding mechanical parts. As I write this article for the newsletter my '02 is convalescing at the local Ford dealer awaiting a fuel pump. This part is available as an aftermarket part as well as OEM. Unfortunately, the OEM version is scarce. The part is still available from Ford but currently has an unknown ETA status as it is on back order. The service supervisor contacted me and explained that they were trying to source an OEM version from another dealer but there was an aftermarket version available immediately. He advised me that he needed to make me aware of the options, but he assumed that my answer would be to await the OEM part even though it would be more expensive. He, of course, was correct. We had just had the OEM vs aftermarket discussion a few days earlier when I gave him a copy of the above article. Through the diligent effort of the dealer's parts department, they located the needed part at a small, practically obscure, Ford dealer in Texas. The service supervisor relayed several stories to me where they had to "fix" customers cars where aftermarket parts had not performed as expected. I shared this article with a longtime friend who advised me that his dealer used NAPA parts on his Honda CRV (not sure why – maybe availability) only to ultimately replace the part with a genuine Honda part to fix the problem. Bottom line, there is a reason OEM parts cost more. They are designed and engineered by car company employees to effectively do the job intended. I will always go the OEM route unless there is no other option. How about you?

**REMINDER: Please Send US Your VIN Number!!!!**

The MATC Board of Directors continues its effort to develop a directory of VIN data (Vehicle Identification Number/ serial number) for members vehicles. If you have not submitted yours yet, please send it Skip, Cathy, Steve, or any officer. This information can be beneficial as a reference future owners when a car changes hands. New owners often inquire back to clubs like MATC to determine if the prior owner was a club member. This information can be very helpful in tracing the history of the vehicle.



**A**

**B**

**Still Available**  
**MATC & TBird T-Shirts**  
**While They Last!**

**A = 45<sup>th</sup> MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L, XL, XXL; \$10 each - 2 for \$25 plus S&H**

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



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 1<sup>st</sup> of the year

Full dues if joining after October 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** Please Mail Application with your check payable to **MATC** to:

**Frank Long, Treasurer; 331 Sullivan Drive, Abingdon, MD 21009; 410-569-8539**

Visit us at [www.midatlantictbirdclub.org](http://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 September 2022)