

February  
2021

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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

### 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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

<http://www.in954:tl-thunderbirdclub.com/>



## This Month In *Thunderbird* History:

**-February 19, 1954:** Original Thunderbird prototype completed.

**-February 20, 1954:** 1955 Thunderbird debuts @ the Detroit Auto Show

**-February 12, 1958:** Four Seat Thunderbird "Squarebird" introduced.

## Mark Your Calendars-Upcoming MATC Activities

### Members General Meeting

**Saturday, February 20, 10am – noon**

### Via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link (easiest way)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7213331579?pwd=bW5YTjBjdUx6czJ2b2hXZHRvYnVmdz09>

Or use this info in your Zoom program:

Meeting ID: 721 333 1579

Passcode: 579697

### Special prize of gift card! Answer a couple Tbird trivia questions.

If you are tech savvy and have a long HDMI cable you can link your laptop to big screen TV and see everyone on one screen.

If you need help with Zoom, call Cathy on 443-417-0441

### February 18: MATC Monthly 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 February 18, 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
<b>February 20</b>	<b>MATC Kick-Off Meeting</b>	<b>***MATC</b>	<b>The comfort of your home</b>	<b>Zoom Meeting</b> <b>Will feature TBird quiz with prizes</b>
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 16	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD	A socially distanced outdoors gathering is being planned
May 20-23	Cruisin OC	Cruisin OC	Ocean City, MD	<a href="https://specialeventpro.com/cruising-ocean-city">https://specialeventpro.com/cruising-ocean-city</a>
June 4-6	All Ford Nationals (Register with Lehigh Valley TBird Club as club affiliation)	Carlisle Events	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	<a href="https://carlisleevents.com/events-event-detail/index?id=ford+nationals">https://carlisleevents.com/events-event-detail/index?id=ford+nationals</a>
June TBD	<b>CANCELLED</b> Bel Air UMC Car Show	BAUMC	21 Linwood Ave Bel Air, MD 21014	<a href="http://www.belairumc.org">www.belairumc.org</a>
July TBD	Potluck Social Hosted by Dan & Zeanne Denham	***MATC	Hydes, MD	
September TBD	Potluck Social Hosted by Phyllis & John Cherry	***MATC	Cascade, MD	
September 25 (tentative)	CRAACA Antique Auto Parts Flea Market	CRAACA	Howard Co Fairgrounds Rt 144, W. Friendship	<a href="https://chesapeakeaaca.org/pages/activities/flyers/2021fleamarket.pdf">https://chesapeakeaaca.org/pages/activities/flyers/2021fleamarket.pdf</a>
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	<a href="https://10times.com/rockville-antique-and-classic-car-show">https://10times.com/rockville-antique-and-classic-car-show</a>
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	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071</a>

**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!!!!*

## February Birthdays



The officers and members of MATC wish the following member(s) a very happy birthday

Earl Zastrow

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

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## Welcome Aboard To Our New Members

Robin & Dan Luber: 1964 hardtop – reinstated members. Welcome back

## Member News & Happenings:

**MATC** treasurer **Harry Skruch** continues to recuperate at home. He is doing well, but is still receiving treatment. He thanks MATC members for their cards, calls and well wishes.

MATC VP **Mike Melnyk** also continues to recuperate but now at home. He is doing better but still has a way to go to achieve full recovery. He thanks MATC members for their cards, calls and well wishes. Mike would appreciate hearing from members. He can be reached at phone number 610-574-5738.

**MATC** Past President **Tom Young** recently had carpal tunnel surgery. He is doing well and expects to be fully recovered soon.

**Barbara Melnyk** underwent significant foot surgery on January 26<sup>th</sup> that involved seven incisions, three toes have pins, and bunion repair. She is recuperating at home and would welcome hearing from MATC members. Home: 610-279-6279; Cell: 484-686-8431.

**MATC** past president and current newsletter editor **Skip Panowitz** will undergo carpal tunnel and Cubital tunnel surgery in mid-February.

Best wishes for a quick 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.*

# We Need Your Help

The Board of Directors of MATC needs the assistance of the membership with the following projects:

- 1) **Service & Maintenance Resources**: When members need assistance with service or repairs to their cars it is very beneficial, and comforting, to have a “go to” source recommended by others with similar issues. MATC is compiling a list of locations that members have successfully used to work on their cars. If you have a favorite service shop or maintenance facility please share this information with the rest of the membership. It makes no difference if your car is a 1955 or 2005 or anything in between.
- 2) **Articles**: We are always looking for articles that might be of interest to other members of the club. Especially topics concerning your car(s). It can be about a service or repair situation or an interesting trip or event that you participated in. Please be sure to include photographs if possible. Members of MATC are always interested in knowing what has worked well for others concerning keeping their cars in good condition as well as interesting adventures they have enjoyed.
- 3) **Biographies**: Please provide us with a photograph of your car(s) with a brief history of the car as well as your involvement in the Thunderbird/special interest car hobby. This is a great way for members to get to know each other - you may be surprised what you find out about your Thunderbird aficionado peers. The bios will be shared in a future newsletter as well as posted to the MATC website.
- 4) **VIN Numbers**: MATC is developing a list of VIN (Vehicle Identification Numbers) of members cars for current and future reference. Please make certain that we have the correct VIN for your Thunderbird(s), even if they are not roadworthy or are in the process of restoration. Many car clubs compile these lists to help in identifying prior owners of cars, to verify production dates and equipment, to determine production seniority of cars, etc. All information submitted will only be used for MATC purposes.

Thanks in advance for your assistance. Please submit the requested information to MATC newsletter editor Skip Panowitz @skip.panowitz@yahoo.com.



## 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](mailto:skelley@gottogotravel.net) (1/18) See car here: [www.classicautomall.com/vehicles/2003-ford-thunderbird-convertible](http://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)

### **1976 Thunderbird:**



*This message was received a few days before newsletter publication:*

My name is Judy Wright. I'm Ken Leaman's daughter. Dad is fine. He has Alzheimer's but is doing ok. He has a 76 t-bird in his back garage. I know it runs because we put a new starter in it recently. I think there is even an extra quarter panel in the garage. It's been sitting in the garage so long I know nothing else about it. It looks good. There's only 37,992 miles on it. I was wondering if any of you would know someone who might be interested in it? If you could let me know I would appreciate it. Thank you so much for your help. Asking price is \$7000 but an appraisal has been ordered.

Judy Wright 973-303-5662, email: [wrightfamily5@mswn.com](mailto:wrightfamily5@mswn.com)

*Ken is a longtime member and important part of the TBird hobby. He has been a key member of the North Jersey Thunderbird Association. He was a founding member and the first president of ITC. (2/21)*



- **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.**

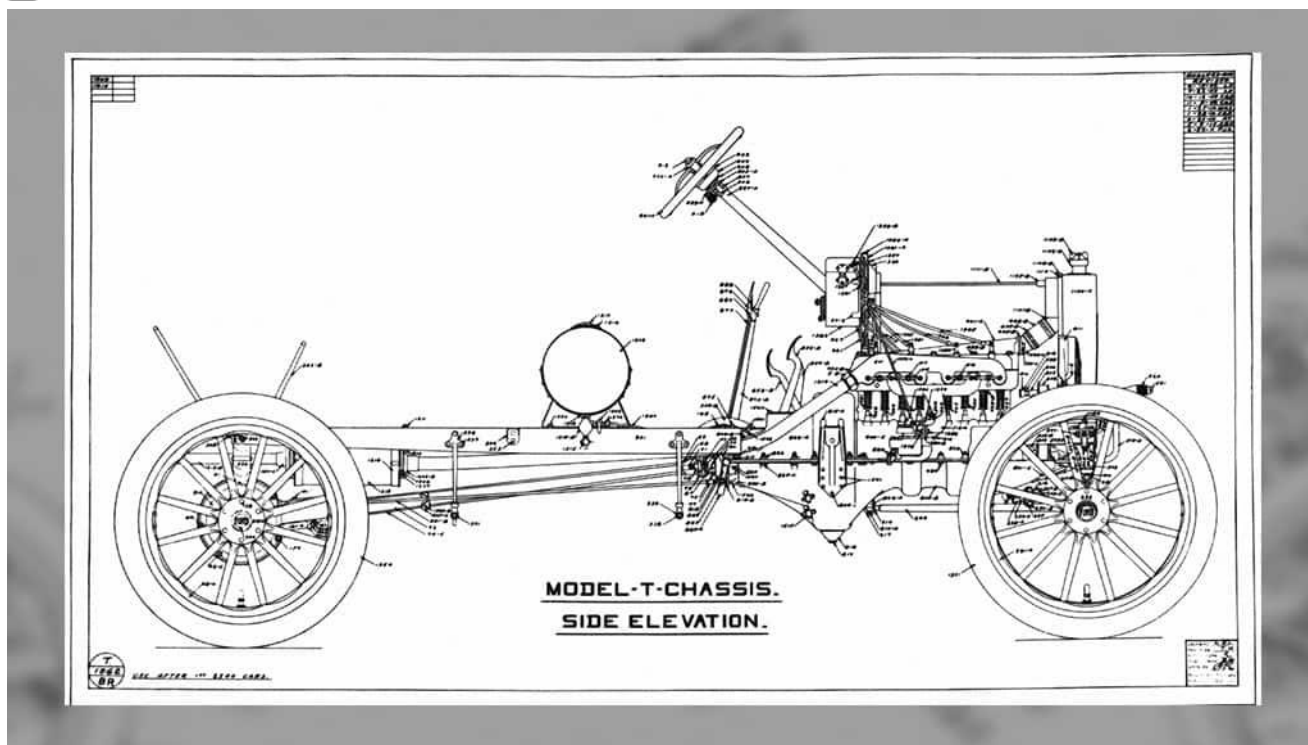
*As usual, many, many other Thunderbird collectibles and memorabilia are available. The list is being updated but will be available soon. Let me know what you are interested in. Skip (1/21)*

*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.*

*The following article is not specifically Thunderbird related but it is very relevant and important to the history of the Ford Motor Company, the history of the automobile in general, as well as the legacy of Henry Ford*

## TBT: Patent Lawsuit Victory Clears Way for Model T, Ford

Jan-14-2021



Company founder Henry Ford fought, and eventually defeated, a patent lawsuit early in Ford history that could have cost the company millions.

It's well known that Ford Motor Company sold millions of Model Ts, but a costly patent lawsuit that was decided 110 years ago this week could have stifled the company in its early years and reshaped the course of American automotive history.

The Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers, which charged early American carmakers royalties on every gas-powered vehicle they produced, had set its sights on Ford right out of the gate. The group was bolstered by a very broad patent on internal combustion engines that had been granted to George Selden, a patent attorney, years earlier. The organization filed suit against Ford in its first year of operation in 1903.

Rather than fight the group, Henry Ford initially opted to apply for license and pay the ALAM's 1.25 percent fee per vehicle, as other successful early automakers such as Old Motor Works and Packard Motor Car Company had done. However, the group rejected Ford, saying his company was an assembler and not a manufacturer of automobiles, while also harassing threatening potential Ford customers with litigation.

With the case unresolved, Henry Ford took out newspaper advertisements reassuring dealers and other early Ford buyers about potential liability, saying Ford would assume all responsibility – with the company’s assets (and with that its very existence) offered as bond.

A 1904 advertisement reprinted in “The Ford Century” read: “You can’t frighten a grown-up man with a toy pistol, neither can you scare a man who wants the best car made from buying the Ford.” The spot touted Ford’s prices as being less than half of the cost of a vehicle built by an ALAM member company.

A back-and-forth print battle between Ford and the ALAM was eventually resolved by the courts, but the initial outcome didn’t bode well for Ford. In 1909, a court ruled that Selden’s patent was valid. By that point, Ford was setting sales records with the Model T and had produced nearly 90,000 vehicles in total while the litigation lingered. With the increased stakes, Ford quickly filed an appeal, and on Jan. 11, 1911, an appellate court decreed that Ford’s engine was not covered Selden’s patent.

In addition to the relief the ruling brought to Ford and other automakers, it earned him and his company national attention. “Nothing so well advertised the Ford car and the Ford Motor Company as did this suit,” Henry Ford said, according to “The Ford Century.” “We were the underdog and had the public sympathy.”

Ford went on to sell millions of Model Ts before it was retired, while the ALAM was reorganized as a national advocacy group for automobile manufacturers following Selden’s death in 1922.





## **President's Message February 2021**

Hoping you all will have a Happy Valentine's Day! Also hoping you either had your Covid vaccinations or you are on a list to get them soon. Barb Melnyk and Tom Young had some elective surgery the end of January and we certainly hope they are recovering. We also found out Kay Garvey is suffering from Alzheimer's and ask that you keep her and Dan in your prayers. If you would like to send cards and need their mailing address, let us know.

We had our annual Board Meeting via Zoom in January. We got a lot covered and hope we can report most of it to you at the annual General Members Meeting this month. We have scheduled it for Saturday, February 20 from 10am to Noon via ZOOM since this nasty quarantine will not be lifted by then. We chose that date because something related to Thunderbirds happened that day!

Put your thinking caps on and get your calendars out. We hope to discuss plans for some gatherings and events for 2021 as soon as the quarantine is lifted. See the details Skip has included earlier in this newsletter about the meeting. Also, you will see Skip has posted that there will be a nice gift card prize for some lucky participant. There's Thunderbird Appreciation Day in May, car club events, rides, rides, rides, maybe a progressive one with 3 stops, maybe another picnic in a park. Those of you south and east of Baltimore, give us ideas in your area.

Hope to see your smiling faces on the ZOOM call. Let us know if you need help with that.

***Steve & Cathy Kelley***





# 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 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:** 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](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 January 2021*

**Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club**

**9 Lake Drive**

**Bel Air, MD 21014**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB.....**

*Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club*

