

February 2023

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## Board of Directors

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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  
49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

### This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **February 12, 1958:** The "Squarebird" introduced: First 4-seat Thunderbird.
- **February 15, 1954:** Thunderbird name selected for the new Ford sport car.
- **February 19, 1954:** 1955 Thunderbird prototype completed.
- **February 20, 1954:** Thunderbird debuts @ the Detroit Car Show.

**Thursday – February 16, @ 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 14th**

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>.**

**JUST A REMINDER - DUES ARE DUE!!!**

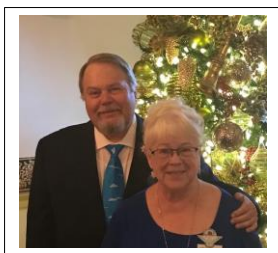
*If you have not paid your dues yet it is not too late. You have until March 1, 2023. Please send your dues payment to treasurer Frank Long to ensure that the "Fun, Fun, Fun" continues.*

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## **President's Message February 2023**

### **Happy Valentine's Day!**

Our annual Members Kick-Off meeting is Sunday, Feb 26 at 1pm at the Bel Air Methodist Church in Bel Air MD and we hope to see you there. Skip has details on the front page of this newsletter about what food item to bring. We're repeating ourselves now, but this is a chance to meet other members and hear about 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. We also thank all those who have made suggestions for this year. Some of them will have info about what they are researching. Oh, and we are still looking for someone to head up an advertising team for the club. Please consider it.

A few of us saw the Denham's last week. A group of MATC ladies went to lunch with Zoeanne giving her a break from her care duties for Dan while a group of the guys socialized with Dan. We recently talked to the Raekes. Jean's brother has been a constant help and they have hospice and home health care coming to the house to help Ray. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as Ray declines. Our treasurer, Frank Long, is doing much better but has more tests coming and still needs our prayers. We are happy to report that your president, Steve, is no longer feeling the pain he had in his back and legs and he is looking forward to getting more active now.

Don't forget your annual dues if you haven't paid!

The weatherman says it's going to be a cold February, so stay warm and well and safe,

*Cathy & Steve*



## MATC is Now A VTCI Chapter

You may have noticed that there is a new, additional logo in the header for this newsletter. MATC is now officially a chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI). Your officers and Board of Directors have been working on this for a long time. VTCI is the oldest, longest running club representing all years and vintages of Thunderbirds. It was originally established to support owners of 1958-60 Thunderbirds and was called the "Squarebird Society" in reference to the nickname designated to the first generation of 4 seat TBirds. As interest in later versions of TBirds developed collectible and special interest status they were included as well. MATC was formerly the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club of America (VTCA) which was the forerunner of VTCI. With the establishment of the International Thunderbird Club (ITC) 30 years ago, the officers of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of VTCI decided to become associated with ITC because of disagreements regarding the management of VTCI at the time. VTCI offers lots of benefits to Thunderbird owners. These include an excellent bi-monthly publication, the Thunderbird Scoop, an annual convention with a judged car show, a Facebook page, technical assistance for all year Thunderbirds, and much more. Check out VTCI at [vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net). **And please consider joining. The application is attached below.**

MATC will continue to be a chapter of ITC.


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## 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
March 11	Chesapeake Region – AACA 48 <sup>th</sup> Collector Car & Swap Meet	CRAACA	Howard County, MD Fairgrounds Friendship, MD	Our Own Tom Young <a href="mailto:Tbirdtoms60@verizon.net">Tbirdtoms60@verizon.net</a> 443-744-6338
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
August 16-19	VTCL International 2023 Convention	VTCL	Cartersville, GA	Vintagethunderbirdclub.net
August 22-27	Thunderbird Reunion	ITC	Dearborn, MI	
October 14	Rockville Classic & Antique Car Show	City of Rockville	Glenview Mansion 603 Edmonston Drive	<a href="mailto:specialevents@rockvillemd.gov">specialevents@rockvillemd.gov</a>
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.

 <p><b>THE MIRACLE LEAGUE of HARFORD COUNTY</b></p> <p><a href="http://miracleleagueharford.org">miracleleagueharford.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING DATE APRIL 15, 2023</b></p> <p><i>Ages 5 – 13 Saturday Mornings 10:00 am</i>  <i>Ages 14 and up Saturday Mornings 11:15 am</i></p> <p>Spring Training  The Arena – March 8, March 22, and April 4, 2023  6:00-8:00 pm</p> <p><i>If you have not yet submitted your contribution to this great Community Support program it is not too late. Please send your contribution payable to Miracle League Of Harford County to Skip Panowitz, 9 Lake Drive, Bel Air, MD 21014 by February 15, 2023. And plan to visit one of the games this year. You may be amazed what is accomplished with folks with disabilities that would not be able to actively participate in sports otherwise.</i></p>
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### 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.

**Be Sure To Put This Date On Your Calendar!!**



### **7th Annual Thunderbird Appreciation Day**

It's time for our Thunderbirds to spread their wings and for us to celebrate our  
"Unique In All The World" cars!

Get together with fellow club members or take a solo flight. Take your car to the grocery store, to the local burger stand, meet up with another T-Birder at a park for a picnic or cruise with others...maybe even take it to the discotheque! Use your Thunderbirds like folks did when they were brand new. Let everyone see why we love our Thunderbirds!

## February Birthdays



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

**Rose Amato   Greg Jensen   Gail Thomas   Betty Wood   Earl Zastrow**

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

### Welcome To Our New Members:

**Nicholas Balint - Rockville, MD - 1965 Hardtop**

### 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 is doing well. He continues to undergo PT. We wish him a continued successful recovery.
- MATC Treasurer Frank Long is continues to recover after his recent hospital stay for kidney failure. He has completed dialysis and anticipates removal of the colostomy in mid-February. Frank says he feels better than he has for a long time.
- Co-President Steve Kelly continues to recuperate after having 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. Is Steve the first human EV in our club? Or is that an EP – Electric Person?
- 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!*

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## Who's Who In MATC

Featured Member(s): Al & Lois Herman

By Al Herman



Lois and I have been married for 52 years and have two sons and two grandsons. When we got married, I had a 1968 Shelby Mustang GT350 convertible. I purchased it in 1969 and was its original owner. After the gas shortage of the early 1970s I sold it to buy a more fuel-efficient, family-oriented Toyota station wagon. Too bad I couldn't have been able to keep it, as their prices have soared after Carroll Shelby's death and the limited number of Shelby convertibles produced.

My love for the '56 T'Bird happened when it came out and I was 9 years old; the port hole hard top, continental tire and a pretty powerful V-8 (remember my 68 Shelby fit this bill). I found this car in Greensboro PA (just east of Pittsburgh) and is its 4th owner. The second owner had bought it from a California resident without an engine or transmission. Being too big of a project he sold it to the third owner, who had installed a Ford 302 V8 and a C4 automatic and did a mediocre restoration of the car. The worst thing was its very poor Peacock Blue paint job. After investigating the car, I found out that it had 3.73 gears and surmised that the original Y-block and transmission were trashed from racing it.

Since we purchased this car, I have done several mechanical upgrades-disc brakes, higher efficient water pump, bigger aluminum radiator, AOD automatic transmission with overdrive. Cosmetically I had the car's paint stripped, the body reworked and a good Peacock Blue paint job. While this was being done, I stripped out the interior and added two different layers of insulation on the floor boards. There are still a few issues with my Bird I'd like to address, but this high rate of inflation has held us back some.

My partiality to Ford happened because my parents had always bought Dodges from a close friend's dealership until we got a real lemon in 1958. They bought a '55 Fairlane which I became the primary driver. It had a 272 Y-block and 3 on the tree standard transmission. This was my braking in as a shade tree mechanic. The '55 had 54k miles on it when purchased and 180k miles when they sold it. The person who bought it put another 100k on it before it was scrapped. My first real car was a 66 Mustang my parents had bought me when I went to college (I commuted due to finances) which I sold to buy the Shelby.

We are members of PCTC (our first car club) and CTCL. Joe Zentgraf stopped in a gas station when I was filling up the 56 Bird and introduced himself. Joe took me to a MATC meeting at Skip Panowitz's house where I proceeded to join MATC.

I was doing car shows and parades, both of which I have cut back. I still try to do DC's St. Patrick's & Cherry Blossom and Silver Spring's parades. From the above picture you can see fringe benefits may be involved (but Lois chaperones me to certain parades as you can see her with her matching turquoise earmuffs). I still enjoy going to Rockville's car show as it has such a wide variety of cars.

## **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)



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**

*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.*





## 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:** 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)

## Vintage Thunderbird Club International



### VTCI Membership Application Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

	US and Canada	All Other Countries
January / February	\$40.00	\$60.00
March / April	\$35.00	\$55.00
May / June	\$30.00	\$45.00
July / August	\$25.00	\$40.00
September / October	\$55.00	\$90.00 includes next year
November / December	\$50.00	\$80.00 includes next year



VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above-please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable & mail to:  
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

\*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.

