

February 2024

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## Board of Directors

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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

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

### This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **February 8, 2001:** Order bank opens for 2002 Thunderbird.
- **February 12, 1958:** "Squarebird" introduced-the first 4 seat Thunderbird.
- **February 15, 1954:** The name Thunderbird selected for Ford's new two passenger sports car.
- **February 19, 1954:** 1955 Thunderbird prototype completed.
- **February 20, 1954:** Thunderbird debuts at Detroit Auto Show.

**Thursday-February 23, 2024 @ 9:30 am\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*: Note: Breakfast date changed to 4<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY in February  
because of Panama Cruise**

Greek Village Restaurant - 129 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, MD 21014  
*Please let Cathy know if you are planning to attend so the restaurant can be prepared.*

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**2024 Kick-Off Meeting and \$2 Pot-Luck Social  
Sunday, February 4 - 1:00 PM**

Bel Air United Methodist Church, Room 202  
21 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014  
(at the intersection of Rt. 924 & Linwood Ave )

*Inclement Weather Date: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>*

This is a General membership meeting to review club events for 2024 and report on the MATC Officer's Planning meeting. We request a \$2 contribution to help offset meeting expenses. If rescheduling is required due to inclement weather or COVID issues, see the MATC Website, Facebook page, 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.

*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 1<sup>st</sup>.**



## President's Message February 2024

**MATCs 50th anniversary** as a club is this year. That's a big milestone! We'd like to celebrate in a big way and use the anniversary to advertise the club. We plan to have a big presence at All Ford Nationals in June, a Thunderbird Appreciation weekend down near Roanoke VA in May and perhaps a trip to the Erie PA area to see the solar eclipse with the Pitt Birds in April. Skip has been trying to coordinate a Tbird show with a car museum in St Michaels, MD also. Anne Collins has come up with some great logo ideas and we hope to be sporting some shirts with an anniversary logo at the February meeting so you can choose if you want to order one. The shirts will be from a good quality vendor so true to size this time. Be sure to come to the meeting February 4 at 1pm to hear all the plans! Skip has all the potluck info and directions on the front page of this newsletter.

This year the **VTCl convention** is in Grand Rapids MI Aug 7-11 and we are planning to go. They have lots of things planned, like a visit to the Gerald R Ford Museum, Gilmore Car Museum and Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park as well as BBQs, Buffets and Banquet. Oh, and of course Tbird judging and awards. We met some great people at the convention in GA last year. Won't you join us this year?

We mentioned that we had a guest speaker, Doug Wood, at our board meeting in October, to tell us a little about **Save The Hobby**, which is an organization we hope to support this year. We plan to have him join us at the Feb meeting.

Several of our members are going through some tough times now too. Please keep Dan Denham in your prayers as well as Zoanne who is caring for him, Celeste Skruch who is recovering from a stroke and Christine Young who is recovering from breast cancer. Skip is on the mend after many blood clots in his lungs, Dwight Dixon is home and feeling well while battling cancer.

*Stay warm and safe,  
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> )
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
<b>2024</b>				
February 4	MATC Kick-Off Meeting	***MATC	Bel Air UM Church Bel Air, MD	1:00-4:00 PM See Info Above
April 8	Eclipse Weekend	**MATC	Erie, PA	More details to be provided later
May 19	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD <i>This may be a weekend event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MATC</i>	TBA
May 31-June 2	Carlisle Ford Nationals		Carlisle, PA	Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!!
July 14	National Collector Car Appreciation Day		TBD	
August 7-11	VTCl Annual Convention	VTCl	Grand Rapids, MI	Details and reservation info to be provided as available
December 8	MATC Christmas Dinner	***MATC	Dobbin House Gettysburg, PA	Details and reservation info to be provided as available

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.



**[Save the hobby.org](http://Save the hobby.org)**

This is our new charitable partner beginning in 2024. We will have a guest speaker to discuss the vision, objectives and mission of the organization at the February meeting.



The officers and members of MATC wish the following members a very happy birthday:  
**February Birthdays:**

**Timothy Oliver, Betty Wood, Earl Zastrow**

*If your birthday was overlooked, please let the editor know ASAP.*

### **Membership:**

Please be sure to use the recruitment cards and/or attached flyer when you see prospective members and their cars.

Need an application for MATC, ITC or VTCI? Contact Cathy, Steve, Mike or Skip

### **MEMBER NEWS & HAPPENINGS:**

- Please keep Celeste Skruch in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to recover from a recent stroke. She is staying with her daughter while recovering. Cards and well wishes can be sent to her at: : 12418 Kondrup Dr, Fulton MD 20759. Her cell phone is (410) 207-2474.
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, Dwight Dixon, Steve Kelley, Mike Melnyk and Christine Young. . 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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### **Registry of Retro Thunderbirds By Color:**

MATC is developing a register of 2002-05 Retro Thunderbirds owned by our members by year, color, and specialty model as applicable (Niemann Marcus, 007, Pacific Coast Roadster, Cashmere). Included with this edition of the newsletter is the updated roster of members. If your retro Thunderbird year and color are not indicated, please notify Skip @ [skip.panowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:skip.panowitz@yahoo.com) with the information so that the register is as accurate as possible. Thanks!

## Upcoming "Thunderbird" Events 2023/2024

### **Federal Armored Express/Dunbar Armored Museum Tour & Lunch-Pending For 2024**

This is an opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to a great American success story. Founded in 1956 by James Dunbar, it grew from a one armored vehicle operation to the #3 armored car service in America with nearly 1000 vehicles and operations nationwide. Acquired by Brinks a few years ago, the museum showcases the vehicles and history of the company. Cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch. The museum is located at 130 Lake Front Drive, Cockeysville, MD. Please RSVP Skip ([skip.panowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:skip.panowitz@yahoo.com)) NLT November 6<sup>th</sup> as space may be limited.

### **Thunderbird Friends Reunion #2, Carlisle, PA, May 31-June 2, 2024**

A reunion of Thunderbird friends is again being planned in conjunction with the 2024 Carlisle Ford Nationals. This time we started our homework early and have been able to secure a block of rooms in the Carlisle area for the nights of Friday, May 31 and Saturday June 1, 2024. This allows for the group being together in the evening, for breakfast, etc., which was not the case this year. We have a block of 25 rooms guaranteed which can be increased as deemed necessary. The rate is \$185 per night, which is discounted from the standard rate, plus taxes. Room reservations can be cancelled up until 6 PM the night of the reservation. The rate includes breakfast and other amenities. We will also have the use of a meeting room as a hospitality room. There is plenty of free parking. The "host" hotel is:

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Carlisle Southwest I-81**  
**1501 Commerce Ave**  
**Carlisle, PA**  
**717-241-0052**

The hotel is an easy drive from the Carlisle Fairgrounds right off of I-81. The block of rooms will remain available until 30 days before May 31st, so it is imperative to make your reservations ASAP, **like right now**, even if you are not certain you can be there. The sooner reservations are made, the better the chance of increasing the number of rooms in the block if needed. It is fortunate that we were able to reserve a block of rooms and at a favorable rate. The online reservation link is below:

### [Thunderbird Friends Reunion](#)

If the link does not work, call the hotel direct at the above number. We will provide more details as they become available. There will be a dinner on Saturday night, like this year, and possibly Friday night too. We hope to have a larger tent this year as multiple clubs are expected to be included. **Please get your reservations taken care of early.** We look forward to lots of Fun, Fun, Fun in 2024.





VTCI 2024 International  
August 7th-11th

# GRAND RAPIDS




MICHIGAN

## Tentative Schedule

Wednesday	Afternoon	Tour: Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum
	Evening	Event: Welcome Reception
Thursday	Morning	Meeting: VTCI Board of Directors / General Meeting
	Afternoon	Tour: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Friday	Evening	Event: Birds, BBQ and Beer (Patio)
	Morning	Tour: Gilmore Car Museum
Saturday	Evening	Event: Friday Night Social
	Judgment Day	Meeting: Owners & Judges
Sunday	Evening	Event: Concours Judging
	Evening	Event: Awards Banquet
Sunday		Bon Voyage ... Have a Safe Trip Home



## Proposed Tours

	<b>Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum</b> ... whatever your politics, the opportunity to explore the role one man played in American history for over 50 years. There's also a chance to explore the "woman behind the power" as Betty Ford's contribution to history and our culture is emphasized. ... and no, that oval office is not Rod Wake's
	<b>Frederik Meijer Gardens &amp; Sculpture Park</b> ... our love for Mother Nature may equal the way VTCI members treasure their T-Birds, but appreciation for the beauty of a formal garden is brought together with the art of sculpture in one of Michigan's most popular attractions ... sorry, no T-Bird sculpture to be found!
	<b>Gilmore Car Museum</b> ... OK automobile enthusiasts, there may not be a bevy of T-Birds located in one of America's most prestigious auto museums, but there is still plenty to enjoy over a day's visit – including the opportunity to ride in some of these older treasures – unfortunately, none meet Paul Prokop's high standards for concours judging!

## 2024 VTCI International Convention August 7-11, 2024 Grand Rapids MI



Earlier in 2023, the VTCI signed a contract to bring "The VTCI Experience" to the largest metropolitan area in Western Michigan ... Grand Rapids. The idea to bring the VTCI to the Grand Rapids area originated with former Vice President, **Ed Elzinga**, who not only provided the idea, but also the basic agenda for this convention.



Starting in 2022, the Board of Directors began working with the Experience Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau. As Interim Regional Director for the Northeast Region (NE), VTCI's Vice President, **Bob McNeill**, working with the North Central Region's Director (NC), **Larry Graham**, began to explore hotel options and potential tours to serve VTCI's members. An exploratory information sheet was provided to various hotels and proposals were solicited.



Joined later by the real management team of **Terri McNeill** and **Kate Graham**, Larry, Bob and company visited the Grand Rapids area in April 2023 to review the hotels and evaluate each hotel to enable the best choice for the club. The eventual choice:

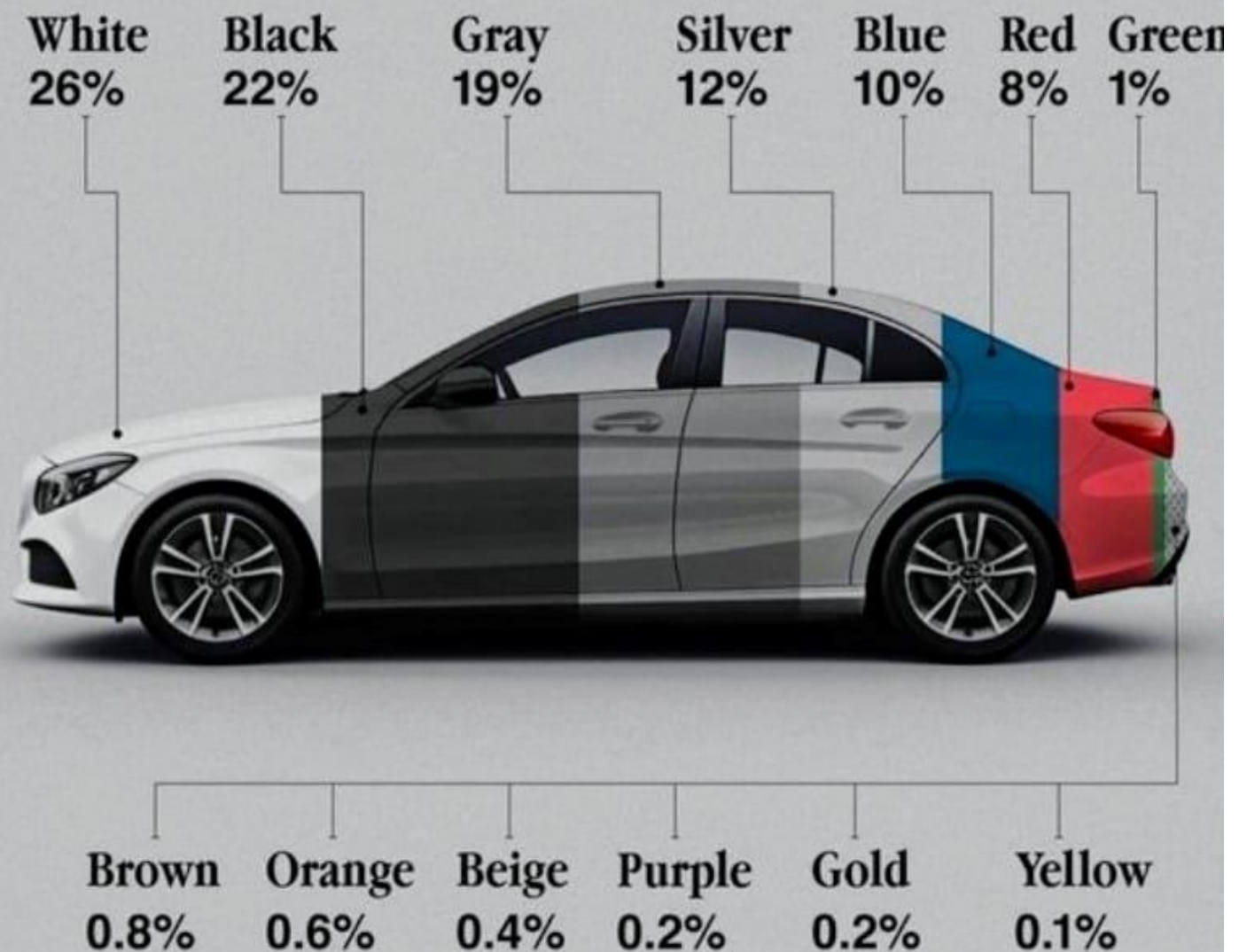
**DoubleTree by Hilton  
Grand Rapids Airport  
4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
\$105 / Night**



**NOTE:** Registration form and the event schedule are included as attachments with the MATC newsletter.

# The Most Popular Car Colors in the U.S.

2023



## November Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Actor? **Robin Williams**

What Year Is The Thunderbird? **1963**

Bonus: What is the movie that this actor and car appear in? **Flubber**

***Congratulations to Dwight Dixon for correctly answering all of the questions.***

***Respond to Skip with your guesses...er answers.***

**Note: All previous winners are not eligible to participate.**

***It is never too late to submit your answer.***

## February Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Actor/Entertainer?

What Year Is The Thunderbird?

Bonus: In what movie did the actor drive a 1957 Thunderbird?

### **Note:**

***There was no winner in the previous edition of the newsletter so we are carrying it over. Every member is eligible to participate.***

### **Previous Winners:**

**May: Judy Dickinson & Steve Kelley**

**June: Tom Young**

**July: Mike Melnyk**

**August: Al Herman**

**September: Bob Bossoli**

**October: Phyllis Cherry**

**November: Dwight Dixon**



## **CLASSIFIEDS**



**2004 Thunderbird Premium** Rare one year only Light Ice Blue metallic color. Options include black accent interior, SST, and 7 spoke chrome wheels. Includes rare and desirable folding convertible top boot. Hard top and stand included. Mileage 41,400 miles. One of only 87 made equipped like this specific car. Second owner, Garage kept, very good condition. Original MSRP: \$38,952. Service records available. Asking price \$18,000. Will consider offers. Contact John Horn 410-377-5824 or email [lynnhorn704@gmail.com](mailto:lynnhorn704@gmail.com).

(11/23) **Sale Pending**

### **For Sale**

Set of four BFGoodrich Silvertown 14-inch whitewall tires on Thunderbird (58- 60) rims for \$560.00 or best offer. Deliverable within reasonable distance. Contact Frank Toth at 202-329-5473 and leave a voice mail message.



**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

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. MATC newsletter is only delivered electronically.

\$15 if joining after June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

\$25 if joining after October 1<sup>st</sup>, (INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR (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 November 2023)

# 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.





## MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OUR 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

More Information and Application Available At:

<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

*& Facebook Too*

Serving 1955-2005 Ford Thunderbird Owners and

Enthusiasts in The Mid-Atlantic Area:

MD, VA, DE, WV, So.PA

### Affiliated With:



VTCI



ITC

### Benefits of Membership Include:

- Tech support for all generations of Thunderbirds
- Social Gatherings
- Monthly Breakfast (Third Thursday @ Greek Village-Bel Air)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Affiliation with national clubs
- Tech Sessions
- Great, Exciting Excursions and Field Trips
- Community Activity and Support
- "Fun, Fun, Fun" with your Thunderbird

