

March 2024 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents
Steve Kelley
443-371-3030

skelley@gottogotravel.net

Cathy Kelley
443-417-0441
cathykelley49@gmail.com

V. President,
Membership
Mike Melnyk
610-279-6279
thunderbirdmike@juno.com

Treasurer
Frank Long
410-569-8539
fglong1@hotmail.com

Secretary
Lynn Horn
410-377-5824
lynnhorn704@gmail.com

Editor
Skip Panowitz
410-456-5276
skip.panowitz@yahoo.com

Webmaster
Steve Kelley
443-371-3030
skelley@gottogotravel.net

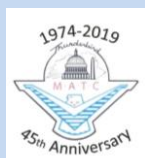
Sunshine Lady
Peg Long
410-569-8539

Board of Directors

Phyllis Cherry 410-747-1209
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 50TH ANNIVERSARY



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **March 10, 2005:** Ford announces production of 11th generation (retro) Thunderbird to ends July 1, 2005.
- **March 14, 2001:** Production of pre-production 2002 Thunderbirds begins.

Thursday-March 21, 2024 @ 9:30 am****

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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Solar Eclipse Weekend: April 7-9: Penn West University in Edinboro PA

We are excited for you to join us **April 7-9 to view the solar eclipse** which will be clear over the Erie PA area. Price gouging has already started in the Erie area, so we've found a free viewing area at **Penn West University in Edinboro PA**. We've found reasonable lodging in Cranberry Township PA at a Hampton Inn with free hot breakfast and wi-fi as well as an indoor pool.

We have blocked 8 rooms at the **Hampton Inn, 10015 Pendleton Way, Cranberry township, PA 16066** under my name, Cathy Kelley. Please let me know if you plan to go and call the hotel at **724-720-1100** and have them change one of the reservations to your name and credit card. They have Hilton Honors, military and AAA discounts so you can negotiate whatever applies to you. We have until **March 14 to confirm the rooms**. The cancellation policy is 48 hours in advance, so if we see the weather will prohibit viewing the eclipse we can cancel without charge.

The plan is to arrive at the hotel Sunday, April 7 and have dinner together that evening and maybe play some games or chat in the hotel afterwards. Then after breakfast on Monday, April 8 we can caravan up I79 to the university, about an hour and a half ride. There will be food trucks, vendors and port-a-pots there, as well as free glasses to view the eclipse. You may want to pack your canvas chairs. The eclipse starts around 2pm with totality at 3:16pm, then gone a little after 4. We would then return to the hotel area for some chat & chew, leaving the next day after breakfast.

Thanks to Stephanie Nagy for the hotel info.

We are looking at places for dinner in the Cranberry area and maybe somewhere interesting between Edinboro and Cranberry.



President's Message March 2024

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Annual Members Meeting on Feb 4. Still a small crowd compared to some years, but enough folks to talk and plan for the year. Look for calendar updates and itineraries for trips planned. We also got to see Dave and Gail Thomas, whom we haven't seen before and our new members Scott and Stephanie Nagy joined us, jumping right in to help plan some things. Dan Luber was there for his first meeting too! Good to see you folks.

We were on a cruise to the Caribbean with a stop at the Panama Canal with 11 Tbirders in February! We had a great time with all that went, including Steve and Ann Longaker from VTCL. From MATC Steve and I joined Skip and Barb Panowitz, Earl and Judy Dickinson, Steve Dameron and Kathy Walters and Celeste Skruch (who is doing well since her stroke in Nov). Skip has pictures somewhere in this newsletter. Already starting to plan another cruise next year, maybe Northeast including Canada and Greenland. Let Steve know if you are interested.

We are making plans for our next club trip, this one to see the Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8 in the Erie PA area. Prices have skyrocketed up there, so Stephanie Nagy has checked out hotels and restaurants north of Pittsburgh PA for us and we have plans to visit Penn West University, in Edinboro PA, south of Erie, for the viewing. They have a planetarium and will have a speaker, food trucks, vendors and port-a-pots as well as the special glasses needed to view the eclipse. We plan to drive over Sunday, April 7, view the eclipse Monday, April 8 and return home Tuesday, April 9. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested so we can block some rooms. Please note if the weather forecast is for rain, fog, clouds etc that would impact seeing the eclipse, we can just cancel the lodging reservations and not go. We will send an email with details soon.

We are also planning a visit to the Roanoke VA area to celebrate Thunderbird Appreciation day, May 19. We'd like to go over on Saturday, May 18 and return home on Tuesday, May 21. Phyllis Cherry is ready to head up a reconnaissance team in the near future to check out places to stay and things to do.

This year the **VTCL convention** is in Grand Rapids MI Aug 7-11 and we are planning to go, arriving on the 8th. 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? They flyer and registration is in this newsletter.

Please keep our members with health issues in your prayers.

*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	(https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071)
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
2024				
April 7-9	Eclipse Weekend	**MATC	Erie, PA TBD	See details – Page #1
May 19	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	This may be a weekend event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of MATC	TBA
May 31-June 2	Carlisle Ford Nationals		Carlisle, PA	Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!! See info below.
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. 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

This is our new charitable partner beginning in 2024.



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

**Alan Herman (3), Barbara Panowitz (5), Joe Zentgraf (8),
Tom Marcelino (16), Timothy Oliver (17), Dan Denham (20),
Earl Dickinson (24)**

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:

- 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 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) NLT November 6th 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
	Evening	Event: Birds, BBQ and Beer (Patio)
Friday	Morning	Tour: Gilmore Car Museum
	Evening	Event: Friday Night Social
Saturday	Judgment Day	Meeting: Owners & Judges
		Event: Concours Judging
	Evening	Event: Awards Banquet
Sunday	Bon Voyage ... Have a Safe Trip Home	



Proposed Tours



Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum

... 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



Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

... 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!



Gilmore Car Museum

... OK automobile enthusiasts, there may not be a bevy of T-Birds located in one of America's most prestigious auto museums, but there 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 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
\$105 / Night



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

MATC 2024 "Kick-Off" Meeting

February 4, 2024





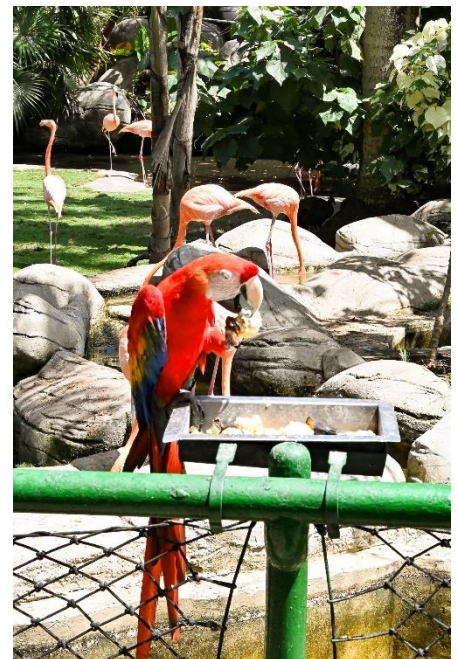
And what do you know, the middle of winter, and 5 members drove their TBirds to the meeting!! (one is behind the truck-honest!)

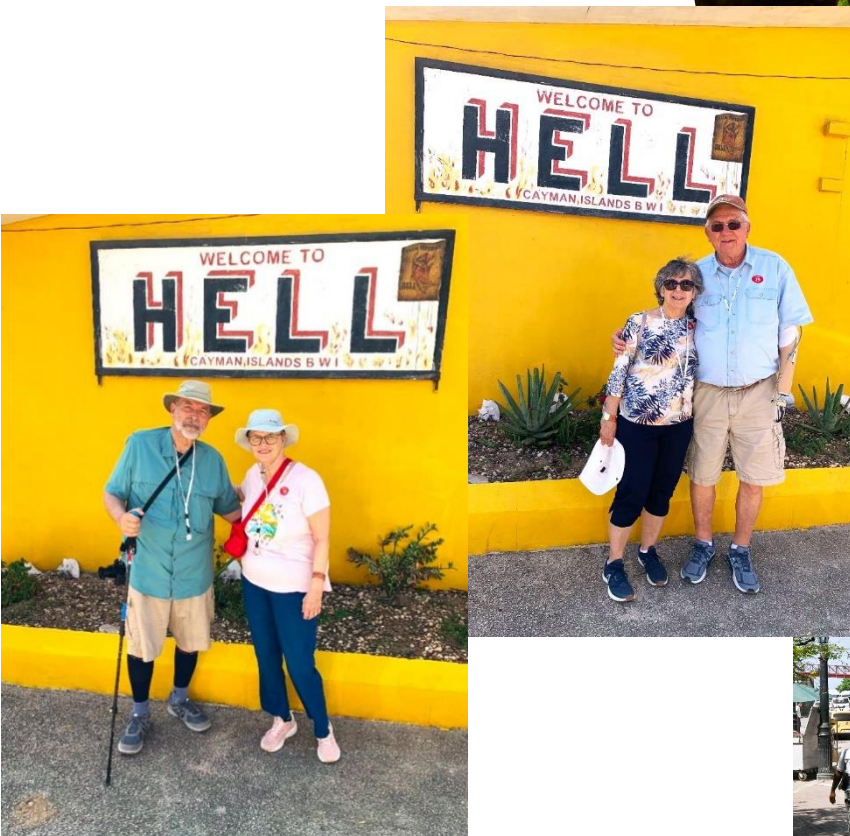
Panama Canal Cruise
February 8-18, 2024
Ruby Princess

The Whole Gang



Thunderbird Friends







March Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Actor?

What Year Is The Thunderbird?

Bonus: What is the movie series that this actor is famous for?.

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

It is never too late to submit your answer.

February Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Actor/Entertainer?: Frank Sinatra

What Year Is The Thunderbird? 1955

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

Congratulations to Judy Dickinson for correctly answering all of the questions.

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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

February: Judy Dickinson

CLASSIFIEDS

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 = 45th 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 1st of the year.

\$25 if joining after October 1st, (*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 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 49TH 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:

**VTCl**

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**

