

August 2022

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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

48TH ANNIVERSARY

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



This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **August 7, 2001:** the 2002 Thunderbird of MATC newsletter editor and past president Skip Panowitz is produced. (Sorry, I could not resist. ed)

Sunday, September 11, 1:00 PM

Annual \$2 Potluck Social

Hosted by Phyllis Cherry

14401 Water Company Road, Cascade MD, 21719

(Near Thurmont, MD).

Please RSVP by September 7th So our hosts can prepare,

Phyllis Cell: 443-831-2194 email: pacherry@comcast.net

*Please bring a dish in the food category listed by the first letter of your last name,
The \$2 goes to the host to offset costs. Phyllis and family are providing venue,
paper goods, utensils, beverages, condiments, etc.*

"H to Q" Main Dish "A to G" Salad "R to Z" Dessert

*If bringing a salad or main dish, please provide enough to serve at least 8 people. If
bringing a dessert, please provide enough to serve at least 10 people.*

*Note: Depending on attendance you might be contacted and asked to bring a
different item.*

Bel Air Drama Club Car Show

August 28, 11AM-4PM

Bel Air High School

See attached flyer for details

There is no pre-registration



Ride The Rails With MATC

Cumberland, MD Train Excursion

October 12 to 14, 2022

(See details below)



President's Message August 2022

We had another fine picnic at the Denham's house in July. Thanks to Zoeanne and Dan and their children for hosting a great event. Congrats to Mike and Barb Melnyk who were the winners in the water balloon contest this year. Also, Judy won a prize for getting the answer right to Skip's newsletter challenge. Check out Skip's photos in this newsletter.

Member Dan Luber is promoting a car show at Bel Air High School on Sat Aug 28 from 11-4. It is called 'No Drama While Driving' and the \$20 fee benefits the drama club at the school. Dan will be doing the DJing. There will be food, raffles, and trophies. Let's see how many MATC cars we can take to support our member, Dan. I know there are a lot of you folks who like to show off your car. Please coordinate with Skip Panowitz on meet up place and time.

Coming up next is the annual 'Cherry Fest' picnic at Phyllis' camp in Western MD on Sunday, Sept 11. This is always a fabulous event so be sure to come. Skip has the food assignment and address on the front page. Be sure to RSVP so Phyllis will know how many to expect. Should we have games with prizes??? If we can park all the Tbirds together (don't park your Buick or Chevy next to a Tbird please) we could take another group picture since there will probably be a lot of folks we haven't seen for a while.

If you are coming to the Cherry Fest and have a T-shirt from the Dover trip that is too small, please bring it to us as we are going to try to get a larger replacement or a refund.

In October we have planned a trip to Cumberland to ride the Western Maryland Steam train to Frostburg and back on Oct 12-14, riding the train on Wed Oct 13. About 18 folks have already booked rooms at the Hampton Inn Cumberland and booked train tickets at <https://wmsr.com/>. We are planning dinner on both Tues and Wed evenings and lunch will be in Frostburg during the break in the train ride. If you haven't booked and are interested, please do so right away and let us know. It should be beautiful in western MD in October.

Please pray for Dan Denham and Ray Raeke and their caregivers.

We greatly miss our friend and MATC treasurer Harry Skruch who was a great all-around man.

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
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 thru October	Weekly Cruise Night		Arctic Circle Drive In Churchville, MD	Wednesday Evenings Weather Permitting
See Below	Miracle League of Harford Co	MLHC	Shuck's Road Athletic Facility – Churchville, MD	See Below
August 5-7	Das Awscht Fest		Macungie, PA	dasawkschtfest.com
August 28	Car Show-Bel Air Drama Co	BADC	Bel Air High School Bel Air MD	See attached Flyer
September 1-11	Cars At the Capitol		The Mall Washington DC	See article below. MATC is planning a trip to the exhibit.
September 11	Potluck Social Hosted by Phyllis Cherry	***MATC	Cascade, MD	Details Available Soon
Sept 28-Oct 2	Fall Carlisle Flea Market, Corral & Auction	Carlisle Events	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	CarlisleEvents.com
Oct 4-7	AACA Eastern Fall Nationals	AACA	Hershey, PA	AACA.org
October 6-9	Endless Summer Cruisin'	Cruisin' OC	Ocean City, MD	infoevent@specialeventpro.com
October 12-14	Ride The Rails with MATC	***MATC	Cumberland and Frostburg, MD	See Details in Newsletter
October 2022 Date TBD	Rockville, MD Antique & Classic Car Show	***MATC	Rockville Center Pk 603 Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20851	https://10times.com/rockville-antique-and-classic-car-show
November	Election of Officers	***MATC		Consider running for an office
December 4	MATC Annual Christmas Party	***MATC	Dobbin House Gettysburg, PA	Details To Be Provided Later
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

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.



2022 Season Schedule

Games Suspended Until September

miracleleagueharford.org

In Memoriam
Harry Skruch
December 20, 1941 – July 31, 2022



It is with great sadness we announce that longtime MATC member and treasurer Harry Skruch passed away on July 31, 2022. Harry was a well-liked, admired, and respected member of MATC. He was a wealth of knowledge regarding the technical aspects of automobiles, especially Fords and Thunderbirds. When the MATC treasurer position became available a few years ago he voluntarily stepped up to the plate and offered to assume the responsibilities. Since his career and background were engineering oriented this required developing a new set of skills which he mastered quickly. Harry, along with wife Celeste, supported most MATC events. He was previously an ITC member. Harry also owned a 2013 Taurus SHO and was an active member of that national club. Harry enjoyed associating with other car folks and looked forward to the gatherings of MATC and other car related events. He will be truly missed by his friends at MATC.

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Details of Harry's Arrangements

Visitation: Friday, Aug 5, 2022, from 2-5 pm and 7-9 pm
E. F. Lassahn Funeral Home
11750 Bel Air Road
Kingsville, MD 21087

Funeral Mass: Saturday, Aug 6, 2022, at 10am
St Joseph's Church
8420 Belair Rd,
Nottingham, MD 21236

There will be a **Caravan of Thunderbirds** to follow the hearse from the funeral home to the church. Please let Cathy know ASAP if you plan to participate as we need to know how many cars to plan for. We will meet at the funeral home at 9:15 sharp on August 6th. Call or text me on 443-417-0441. The cemetery is right behind the church, so we will not caravan there. There will be a wake at the church after the service. Celeste needs to know how many to expect, even if you are not in the caravan. Thanks for your quick response,
Cathy

=====

A Personal Note by the Editor

In April of 2007 I was a physical therapy patient in the rehab unit of Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore after bi-lateral knee surgery. I usually wore a Thunderbird related T-shirt to the PT sessions. One day I wore a t-shirt with an image of a retro Thunderbird on it. A physical therapist noted this and mentioned that her dad owned one of those cars. This was Harry's daughter Marybeth. I provided her with MATC information to give to her dad. I arranged to meet with him once my mobility improved. And the rest is history as they say. Not only did Harry join MATC, but he became an invaluable member of the club. And a great friend. Not just to me, but club members in general. Harry and I were never at a loss for things to talk about no matter if in person or by phone. We had a lot in common. We are both graduates of the greatest (public) high school in America – Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. We were car guys with a penchant toward Fords but had owned other makes in the past. We lamented the continually worsening sad state of affairs in our hometown – Baltimore. And we were aligned the same politically. He was a genuinely nice guy, a good guy. It is ironic how a fateful wearing of an item of apparel developed into such a great friendship. I very happily take all responsibility for Harry becoming a valued member of MATC. I will miss Harry. We all will. *Skip*

BEL AIR DRAMA COMPANY

"NO DRAMA WHILE DRIVING"

CAR SHOW

Sunday 8/28 11 - 4

Bel Air High School - 100 Heighe Street - Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Fundraiser sponsored by the Bel Air Drama Company Parents' Association



ALL MAKES & MODELS - \$20 PER VEHICLE

Trophies for Top 3 Vehicles & Top 25 Vehicles

Dash Plaques for first 125 vehicles registered

50/50 Raffle

Food Available

Door Prizes

Basket Raffles

Music by DJ Dan

Cars at the Capital 2022

Sharing America's automotive heritage is an integral part of ensuring it is never lost or forgotten. Through our annual Cars at the Capital exhibition, vehicles added to the National Historic Vehicle Register are exhibited in a beautifully lit glass enclosure one at a time. Join us to celebrate and enjoy this year's automotive icons!

- **When:** September 1 – 11, 2022
- **Location:** Washington, DC. National Mall between the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art.
- **Entrance:** Free and open to the general public

Week 1 (September 1-6)

1952 Hudson Hornet (7B-185596) "Fabulous Hudson Hornet," Raced by Herb Thomas

Herb Thomas built a legendary reputation at the wheel of this Hudson Hornet. The Hudson story lives on today through the Pixar *Cars* franchise that recalls Herb's domination in the early days of NASCAR.



Week 2 (September 7-11) **Chrysler Corporation Turbine Car (Serial No. 9912-31)**

Chrysler built just fifty-five of these groundbreaking cars. Part of the company's decades long effort to develop a mass-market gas-turbine powered automobile, Chrysler loaned them out in an unprecedented public test program.



This is a great opportunity to see several unique and historically important automobiles.

MATC is planning a trip to visit the exhibit. More details to follow. Unfortunately, there is no longer an opportunity to display your vehicle on the Mall in DC as the limited space available has been filled.



**Ride The Rails With MATC
Cumberland, MD Train Excursion
October 12 to 14, 2022**

Join MATC for a fun filled excursion to Western Maryland. Cumberland MD will be our rendezvous point. The trip will include a train trip on the Frostburg Flyer as well as time to visit other scenic points of interest in the area. But do not delay in making your train and hotel reservations as they are filling up fast. Go to <https://wmsr.com/> and click 'book now' for the Frostburg Flyer. Arrow over to October and select Thursday the 13th @ 11:30 AM. You will see coach seats are \$45. That's what you want to reserve. Our hotel is the Hampton Inn Cumberland. Please reserve for Oct 12 and 13. Please let Cathy know when you are confirmed so she can keep track for restaurant reservations. We hope to have a great turnout and it is already shaping up that way.

Annual Potluck at the Denham's

We had a great turnout in spite of member illness, vacations, and threatening weather.







And after the eating and meeting, the serious “business” began...





There were some challenges as to who actually won the balloon toss



A few members brought their Birds in spite of the questionable weather

August Birthdays



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

Sara Forte Lois Herman Steve Kelley David Shelton

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

Recruitment of 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:

- **Harry Skruch:** Please see attached article.
- Several of our members are continuing to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, Mike Melnyk, and Ray Raeke. 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!



How To Solve Trunk Capacity Issues With Your Retro Thunderbird?

Who's Who In MATC

Featured Member(s): Cathy & Bob Ridolfi

By Cathy Ridolfi



Bob and I have been married for 54 yrs. Hard to believe but so blessed. We have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Our years together started off with getting married and then Bob going to Alaska as he was in the Airforce during the Vietnam war years. We had been married for ten days when Bob left for duty. We often say that is why we lasted so long! 😊 Anyhow, after a few odd jobs Bob got into the insurance business, and later became a financial advisor. He retired not too long ago after 48 years in the business. Kathy worked many years as a medical secretary/assistant and then for 20 years plus at an adult day/assisted living facility.

The love and interest in cars started when Bob was discharged from the military. I met him in Detroit where we had purchased a 1969 GTO convertible (wish we still had). Drove through Canada and back to Maryland in that great vehicle.

Our interest and love for t-birds and classic cars in general started in 1984 when our 1956 t-bird was purchased from a Virginia estate sale. With the exception of our 1966 t-bird, all cars were restored or made drivable by Bob and friends. We still drive our '56 as well as 1955, 1961, 1966 Thunderbirds and a 64-1/2 Mustang. And most recently after many years of restoring, a 57 Cadillac Biarritz which we had for 20 years.

We are members of PCTC (our first car club), CTCL, MATC, ITC and the Cadillac & LaSalle Club. We also belong to AACA. We had been members of VTCI in the past. We joined PCTC and CTCL in 1984 to learn more about our purchase? We have made many friends with our memberships and enjoy what clubs stand for: helping new and old car owners with restoring and maintaining vehicles, gaining technology information, helping preserve a declining interest in classic cars, socializing with members, doing caravans, parades, car shows and potlucks. We have many wonderful memories of our involvement with the clubs. Bob was vice president of PCTC for a year and I was secretary/ treasurer for 2 years. We helped to do the national CTCL convention in Williamsburg, Va. in 1990, even taking our kids who were very young with us. None of our kids ever really got the car bug interest. One or two of the grandsons are interested but times have changed and are changing with vehicles, driving, etc. The younger population is not too interested in older cars.

All in all, we have enjoyed our love of classic cars, mostly t-birds, and the wonderful friends and memories we have. We still enjoy car shows and look twice at any good-looking classic vehicle going down the road.

A new high-spirited personal car that's at home on boulevard... or open road

No matter where you go, you'll find every trip presents a new kind of driving fun!

Beautiful, low-silhouette, all-steel body... 102-inch wheelbase.

Ford brings to America an exciting new kind of automobile—the Thunderbird... a personal car of distinction.

No matter what your tastes or what you expect in a car, you'll find a whole new world of excitement in the Thunderbird. And the pride of owning such a distinguished automobile is only a small part of this pleasure.

Once you see the Thunderbird's lines, low, lean-like lines, chances are you'll never forget them. Yet, appearance is merely a hint of the fresh, new Thunderbird approach.

You will discover a wealth of new ideas in the Thunderbird—ideas you will find in no other car today.

You'll find, too, that the Thunderbird adds new excitement... a new sense of well-being... to every phase of your driving. The way in which it responds instantly to your touch of the controls... the way in which it parks and threads through traffic... the effortless manner in which it glides along highway or byway... and the road-hugging way in which it corners... all these make the Ford Thunderbird an extension of your being on wheels!

Above all, you will enjoy driving the Thunderbird, just for the driving's sake.

There is nothing like it on the road today!

Door top to tread is only 34.2 inches... yet there is a full 5.9 inch road clearance.



Quiz

We have a Winner! Judy Dickinson not only responded with the correct answer(s), but she was the only responder!!

And here are the answers:

1) the actress perched on her 1955 Thunderbird

Answer: Natalie Wood

2) the location of the photo shoot and its significance.

Answer: Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, CA. This venue played a significant part in the 1955 movie "Rebel Without A Cause. It starred, you guessed it, Natalie Wood. Also, James Dean.

Correction:

In the article in the last newsletter, congratulations were extended to long time MATC member, past president and current Board of Directors member Tom Young regarding the restoration of the 1975 Dodge Coronet race car by he and brother John in memory of their late brother who purchased it new and raced it. It has won several prestigious awards since completion. The wrong photo of the car was inadvertently posted with the article. The correct photo is posted below. Congratulations to Tom and John.



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)



A

B

T-Shirts

While They Last!

A = 45th MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L, XL, XXL; \$15 each - 2 for \$25 plus S&H

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

Thelma & Louise TBird Collectible Models

Now Arriving



Now Arriving!

UPDATE: The Greenlight 1966 model Thelma & Louise Thunderbirds in 1:64 scale are in – finally!. Both top down and top up versions. I will have them available at the Denham's and future MATC events. The other versions should be arriving soon. These include '64 hardtop in red and '65 convertibles in black and white. I just learned that the 1965 Special Landau is also being added to the list. If you will not be attending an event but are interested in any of the items please advise me and I will hold them for you.

Skip (8/22)

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.

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.



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 1st of the year

Full dues if joining after October 1st 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:

Cathy Kelley, co-President, 415 Moores Mill Road, Bel Air, MD 21014

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 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

