

August 2024

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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



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **August 2001:** Delivery of First 2002 retro Thunderbirds to dealers begin. Some cars held back, and some returned to factory, because of cooling system issue.

Thursday-August 15, 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.

Mark Your Calendars-Upcoming MATC Activities

Sunday, September 15, 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 9th So our host 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.



President's Message Aug 2024

It's 'Bird Season!'

Our annual picnic at the Denhams was Sunday, July 14 and was well attended again this year. Due to the high temps, Zoeanne set up an indoor picnic again this year. Excellent food as usual and lots of great conversation. Then we played MATC bingo again... Some big winners, just like at LVTC trivia at AFN. Skip gave out awards to the latest trivia winners and we had birthday cake for the July birthday folks. It was good to see Dave & Gail Thomas, Bob & Candy Bossoli, Scott Mummert & Stephanie Nagy, Steve Dameron & Kathy Walters among our regulars the Denhams, Dickinsons, Panowitzs, Horns, Phyllis and us although we missed a bunch of folks too. Thanks so much to Dan & Zoeanne's family for helping cook and set things up.

We'll be heading to Grand Rapids MI when you read this, attending the **VTCL convention**. I believe we expect the Kelleys, Panowitzs, Dickinsons, Dixons, Melnyks (if Mike is well enough), Steve Dameron & Kathy and now Tom & Rosemary have decided to join us. This is a national organization rally and it will be great to have an impressive showing from MATC. (If you have club shirts be sure to pack them.

Coming up in September is our annual **Cherry Fest at Phyllis Cherry's camp** on the mountain in western MD. An absolutely stunning view from the top of a mountain lends to a wonderful day, so plan to join us, **Sunday, September 15 at 1pm**. It will be a potluck and Skip will have your food category listed in September's newsletter.

Also in September we'd like to go to **St Michael's Classic Car show** at the St Michael's Motor Museum. Skip has the flyer in this newsletter. Probably a 2 or 3 hour drive for most folks. We'd check out the show about 10am and do lunch after. You can also register your car for display. Please let us know your interest ASAP so we can set up lunch reservations.

Prayers and healing thoughts go out to our VP, Mike Melnyk who is battling double pneumonia and has been in and out of hospital.

It's that time of year when we need to get the 'Birds out for some exercise. **Ice cream** in Havre de Grace is planned, at **Bomboys on Saturday, August 18 at 2pm**. Be there for fun and great homemade ice cream. (they have indoor air-conditioned seating)

Have fun, but stay 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				
September 15	"Cherry Fest" @ Phyllis Cherry's Cabin	***MATC	Cascade, MD	More details as we get closer
September 21	St. Michael's Classic	Classic Motor Museum	St. Michael's, MD	See Flyer In Newsletter
December 8	MATC Christmas Dinner	***MATC	Dobbin House Gettysburg, PA	Details and reservation info to be provided as available
2025				
June 6-8	Carlisle Ford Nationals	Carlisle Productions	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, 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 member(s) a very happy birthday:

August Birthdays:

+Gary Faircloth	+Lois Herman	+Ron Hill
+Steve Kelly	+Dave Shelton	+Sarah Forte

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:

- MATC VP and VTCI District Advisor Mike Melnyk has recently had several hospital stays in an effort to treat double pneumonia and other respiratory issues. He is now recovering at home as of the publication of the newsletter. Please give him a call or email if you have an opportunity. He would be happy to hear from MATC members.
- Jean Hill continues her recovery from a serious fall that resulted in a head injury. She is doing well, and a complete recovery is anticipated.
- Dwight Dixon has been diagnosed as being cancer free!!! Very good news!!
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, 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!



Denham's "Pot-Luck" Gathering July 15, 2024

Because of a technical glitch, these are the only photos that "developed" from the Denham's event. In addition to Judy Dickinson, this adds three to the total count of those present. Not sure of what the status of the eggs counts as.



Pre-register **NOW** for ***The St. Michaels Classic***

***At the Classic Motor Museum in St.
Michaels, Maryland.***

This all-day family-friendly fundraiser takes place on September 21, 2024. It is attracting interest from all over the Eastern Shore!

Don't miss the opportunity to enter your car in this special, juried event.

We need pre-registrations early to select final entrants and set up classes.

To pre-register your vehicle go to:

classicmotormuseum.org

102 E. Marengo St. St. Michaels, MD 21663;
info@classicmotormuseum.org; 410-745-8979



FRESH POWDER

Bright-white paint didn't make it onto factory cars until the early Fifties. Its secrets remain so valuable that corporate spies tried to steal them on behalf of China.

BY LAWRENCE ULRICH

IT'S THE STUFF that makes Oreo filling white. It's in sunscreen, toothpaste, cosmetics, inks, paper, plastics, solar cells, and superyacht hulls. And it's the billion-dollar brightener behind every new white car, so valuable that corporate spies for a state-run Chinese company went to prison for pilfering DuPont's secrets. That's right: People tried to steal the color white.

The stuff is titanium dioxide. TiO₂ is a naturally occurring compound you may never have heard of, whether you own a Wimbledon White Shelby Mustang or select the best "Nissan Sentra or similar" from a field of lily-white rentals.

Yet there wasn't a mass-produced car that flaunted a how-white-my-shirts-can-be shade until around 1952. Sure, Mercedes had its "white elephant" rarities before Germany's chosen racing color shifted to silver, and the Cord Corporation sent four snow-colored Auburn show cars on a cross-country White Caravan tour in 1935. White was for coach built and custom cars, like the icy Duesenberg Model J that Ginger Rogers drove in *The Gay Divorcee*.

Vintage auto-paint books display a panoply of pale grays, custardy yellows, and other off-whites for cars and trucks—but nothing with that Frigidaire gleam. That's despite DuPont's fast-drying factory-sprayable Duco lacquer that splattered Jazz Age color over a Henry Ford—black industry beginning in the early Twenties. In 1925, DuPont peddled more than 1 million gallons of Duco at five bucks a pop to five GM divisions and 14 other automakers. Its Duco Advisory Service, a novel taste making and forecasting unit run by premier colorist H. Ledyard Towle, grew to offer an unmanageably complicated 7500 colors. By 1926, a color riot swept Europe and America, and New York's auto show saw a dozen Lincolns in exotic hues adapted from American and tropical birds. Two-tone bodies, custom brushwork, contrasting upholstery—color ruled a remade industry. But still, no linen white.

"Cigarette Cream and Ivory were the closest we got to pure white," says Madison Auten, collections and education manager of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

Gundula Tutt, a paint conservator and restorer for car museums and collectors, says white was rarely used because resins in oil-based paints notoriously yellowed over time.

Tutt traces titanium dioxide's first patented application to Norway in 1916 and its first use in car paint to 1920. But that was a crude "sulfate batch" form sourced from ilmenite ore. Mixed with cheaper lead, zinc, or lithopone pigment, it didn't go on well, especially when heated for faster drying. It took another four decades before titanium white arrived in everyday showrooms.

"Paperwhite colors could not be obtained with these materials," Tutt says. "So even hues like Federweiss on the 1956 BMW 507 were off-white already from the factory."

A breakthrough came in 1948 with a second DuPont revolution: a chloride process that produced a continuous stream of purer titanium white. Developed at the Edge Moor facility near Wilmington, Delaware, that process produced what remains the world's brightest, most opaque, and most reflective pigment.

By 1950, the Volkswagen Beetle and the Jaguar XK120 verged on vanilla with respective Pearl White and Cream. Chevrolet's 1951 pickups offered both White and Cream Medium. But while definitive moments are difficult to pinpoint, Oldsmobile may claim the first crisp-white American car paint with the introduction of DuPont's Swan White for the 88 and 98 Series models of 1952.

The real coming-out party happened with GM's Triple Crown of classic convertibles, all in white debutante gowns for 1953. These were designer Harley Earl's dream cars. There was the Buick Roadmaster Skylark with Majestic White paint, the Cadillac Series 62 Eldorado in Alpine White, and the Oldsmobile 98 Fiesta wearing Polar White. But it was the fourth car that became the snowy sensation of the 1953 Motorama at New York's Waldorf Astoria: Earl's 1953 Chevrolet Corvette in Polo White.

Days later, President Eisenhower waved to inauguration crowds while standing in the open-roof Eldorado in what had to be many onlookers' first glimpse of a white showroom car. The next year, Lincoln, Chrysler, and even Jeep jumped in on the trend. In 1955, Ford had Snowshoe White on the Thunderbird, the Fairlane, and the F-100.

Narayan Khandekar directs Harvard University's Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, whose collection of more than 2500 pigments is used to research and authenticate paintings. He says the titanium dioxide breakthrough is analogous with the 19th century's golden age of chemistry, which birthed "amazingly bright colors that made Impressionism possible."

"If we hadn't had the chemistry, we wouldn't have had that art movement, and that goes for the Fifties as well," Khandekar says. "Things become available; people get excited and start using them."

Stephen Bayley, author, critic, and co-creator of London's Design Museum, agrees that tech innovation always informs design. "Earl could only realize his imagination when sheet steel was produced in wider widths," Bayley says.

Whether paint was chicken or egg, Ed Welburn, GM's former vice president of global design, says it's all of a piece. "It's all midcentury-modern inspired," Welburn says of cars, fashion, and architecture. "You look at kitchens of that era; there's a lot more white than there had been."

A color associated with cleanliness and innocence—from Tom Sawyer's picket fence to wedding veils—quickly blazed a path to dominance. Famous stops include the Dodge Challenger R/T from 1971's *Vanishing Point*, a contrast with the film's desert backdrop as striking as a Georgia O'Keeffe cow skull. There's the 1973 Porsche 911 Carrera RS in Light Ivory, 007's Lotus Esprit featured in 1977's *The Spy Who Loved Me*, and the omnipresent white delivery van.

***Ford's Wimbledon White, also called Arctic White by Lincoln and Polar White by Mercury, is perhaps best known as the definitive color of Carroll Shelby's Mustang GT350.*

By the go-go Thatcher Eighties in Britain, Bayley says, white cars—virtual unicorns before—had the masses shedding a dull cloak of conformity. “Everything was black boxes, so white was like a defiance of austerity and professional designer taste,” Bayley says. “Even a Golf convertible or a Ford Escort became a symbol of frivolous pleasure.”

In 2023, between DuPont spinoff Chemours, Kronos Worldwide, and other players, the global industry cranked out 6 million tons of titanium dioxide, according to ChemAnalyst. This preeminent pigment is so pervasive that even darker paints rely on it to make color pop. Considering titanium white’s vast reach across industries, it might seem there are no secrets left. A watershed federal case just a decade ago proved otherwise.

Chemours fiercely protects a proprietary process DuPont hit upon 76 years ago and continues to refine. When DuPont developed the process in its now-shuttered Edge Moor facility in 1948, it enclosed hundreds of vessels and thousands of feet of pipe to block prying eyes. A half-century later, that process was worth enough to become Walter Liew’s target.

China is the world’s largest producer of many minerals and metals, including titanium dioxide. Yet at least 95 percent of its TiO₂ output is still made with the less pure, inefficient sulfate process from 1916. According to federal prosecutors, Liew, a Malaysian-born engineer of Chinese heritage, forged ties with the Chinese government after being invited to a Beijing banquet in 1991. As reported by Reuters, the Californian was thanked “for being a patriotic overseas Chinese.” Soon, the secretary-general of Beijing’s top policymaking body was directing Liew toward tasks to benefit the People’s Republic, including uncovering DuPont’s chloride-route process.

The building blocks are public knowledge. Rajeev Gorowara, a Chemours scientist and consultant, explains it: Titanium ore arrives at plants in various states, including rutile, a crystal form of TiO₂ with relatively few impurities, abundantly available in dark beach sand from places such as Australia and South Africa. Ore goes into a reactor called a chlorinator, where it’s mixed with coke (the high-carbon coal-based fuel, not the soda) and chlorine and heated past 1800 degrees Fahrenheit to strip away iron and other impurities. The resulting gas gets distilled into a yellowy liquid that’s pure titanium tetrachloride, or “tickle,” a nickname derived from the TiCl₄ formula. That liquid, Gorowara says, is “burned in air” with oxygen, a reaction that separates the chlorine atoms from titanium and replaces them with two oxygen atoms. Voilà: pure titanium dioxide.

That’s where intellectual property and expertise come in, according to Steven De Backer, Chemours technical manager. Precise control of particle size and surfaces when washing, treating, and grinding the talcum-fine powder is critical to virgin-snow whiteness.

To unlock those secrets, Liew scoured the internet for insiders. He found two former DuPont engineers, Robert Maegerle and Tim Spitler. Maegerle had started his career as an intern in 1956 and became a TiO₂ expert. He had been a top engineer on a proposed South Korean factory project that DuPont abandoned, a decision he opposed.

*** One of Harley Earl’s trio of limited-edition 1953 convertibles, the Cadillac Eldorado was all the more attention grabbing with its crisp Alpine White paint.*

Liew began pitching expertise to a subsidiary of the state-run Pangang Group, one of the world's largest vanadium and metals companies. As trial testimony showed, his document hoard included Spitler's blueprints of Edge Moor and Maegerle's voluminous details from a 407-page manual for building a DuPont plant in Taiwan.

According to Bloomberg, in a 2004 letter to Pangang Group's chairman, Liew wrote, "DuPont has the most advanced white by chlorination technology," but the tech has been "highly monopolized, and absolutely not transferable." He stated, "After many years of follow-up research and application, my company has possession and mastery of the complete DuPont way of titanium white by chlorination."

In less than a decade, Liew's Oakland company had secured Pangang Group contracts worth almost \$28 million, including nearly \$18 million to design a TiO₂ factory in Chongqing. An Australian consulting firm hired by Pangang Group warned that Liew's company seemed to be offering up DuPont's intellectual property. The Chinese conglomerate ignored the advice. But a consultant on the project and an anonymous letter writer tipped off DuPont to the scheme, and Liew's white house of cards began to tumble. DuPont filed suit and called the FBI, which raided Liew's California home and offices. Not long after Liew and his wife were arrested, Spitler killed himself in 2012.

Most intellectual-property theft isn't reported, let alone prosecuted and punished. But in 2014, Liew was found guilty of economic espionage, tax evasion, and bankruptcy fraud—the first-ever federal jury conviction on charges under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and ordered to forfeit \$27.8 million in illegal profits. Maegerle, then 78, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison. After contracting COVID-19 and being put on a ventilator, Liew received a compassionate release in 2020 at age 62.

John Carlin, a former FBI chief of staff and assistant attorney general for national security for the U.S. Department of Justice, coordinated Liew's prosecution. He says that traditionally, espionage involved state secrets or defense technology. But that's changed. "You ask yourself, 'Why are they stealing the color white?'" Carlin says. "It's not 'spying.' It's about stealing things you can make a buck off of instead of spending money on R&D."

Carlin, who chairs national-security practice for the Paul, Weiss law firm, says intelligence suggests that even uniformed Chinese military are targeting private companies, hacking secrets—from specs for lead pipe to pricing on solar panels—to help Chinese companies underbid or one-up competitors. What was long viewed as "spy versus spy" must come out of the shadows of the classified space, Carlin says, to show the "unfathomable scale" and cost of intellectual-property theft.

America's auto industry is suddenly at the forefront of the issues. The Inflation Reduction Act heavily incentivizes homegrown production of EVs, batteries, and minerals. In May 2024, the Biden administration slapped 100 percent tariffs on Chinese EVs and stiffer levies on batteries and chips. It's all meant to keep Chinese goods—whose appealingly low costs, officials argue, are due to state subsidies, suspect intellectual property, and forced technology transfers—from undermining plans to revive and protect U.S. manufacturing.

"We saw the shift, that this is really a national-security threat," Carlin reiterates. "Whether it's car production or chips, it's about the loss of economic competitiveness."

Since Liew was busted, the prevalence of white paint has only grown, though showroom ubiquity may play a role for consumers who buy what's on the lot. White

passed silver and black as the world's most popular auto paint in 2011 and has never looked back. It adorned 35 percent of the new cars sold around the world in 2023, almost doubling black's 18 percent market share, according to paint super supplier PPG Industries. Climate change could make UV-reflecting white cars even more appealing in sizzling environments.

Misty Yeomans, a color-styling manager at PPG, credits Apple in part for the trend. "The popular color was silver, and it got replaced by white," Yeomans says, including a blizzard of Mac-like cabins in luxury cars and later in EVs.

White paint continues to evolve, aided by clearcoats—white was the last to add them—and cool effects, including ultra trendy "solid metallics" whose subtle glow is perceived as flat but isn't. Think Porsche's knockout Chalk or the Miata's Ceramic Metallic. When Ferrari unveiled the 12Cilindri in Maranello, it was coated in a fashionable Bianco Artico white.

A Ferrari debut in white may have made *rosso* loving Enzo turn revs in his grave. But a paint that was last on the industry starting grid has raced past every color of the rainbow. To paraphrase Willy Wonka, no stranger to fighting industrial espionage himself, white is certainly not showing any signs of slowing.



Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club 50th Anniversary Shirts

Here you see a picture of the latest MATC 50th anniversary polo shirts that we have ordered Listed are your options. They are of nice quality. Another order is in progress. At least six items are required to place an order.

Men's Polo XS –XL \$22

2x \$24, 3X \$27, 5X

\$32

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest green

Red

Ladies Polo XS – XL

\$22

2X \$24, 3X \$27

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest Green

Red

Ladies Scoop Tee

XS – XL \$17

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest Green

Red

Azelea Pink

Sweatshirt Unisex

S-XL \$28 , 2X \$33, 3X

\$35

Black

Navy

Charcoal Gray

Forest green



Thunderbirds On Display

**Quilt designed and made by
Cathy Kelley**

Co-president of Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club

>->-> Raffle tickets \$5 each <-<-<

Winning ticket drawn at VTCl convention



**Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to
Save the Hobby for Custom & Classic Car
Educational Foundation**



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

	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 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 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
\$105 / Night**



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

July 3, 1945 – The first postwar cars

- [July 3, 2024](#)
- Brian Corey



Ford got a jump on postwar production by, well, not waiting until the war was actually over. On this day in 1945, Ford began production of 1946 model year cars, more than a month before World War II would actually come to an end on the Pacific Front. Ford was the first major American automaker to begin manufacturing personal vehicles since the outbreak of war led to all automakers transitioning into the production of military goods.



Above: a 1946 Ford

Top: Harry Truman's 1946 Ford Super DeLuxe Tudor sedan was the 1st car to roll off the famous Ford assembly line when production resumed after World War II.

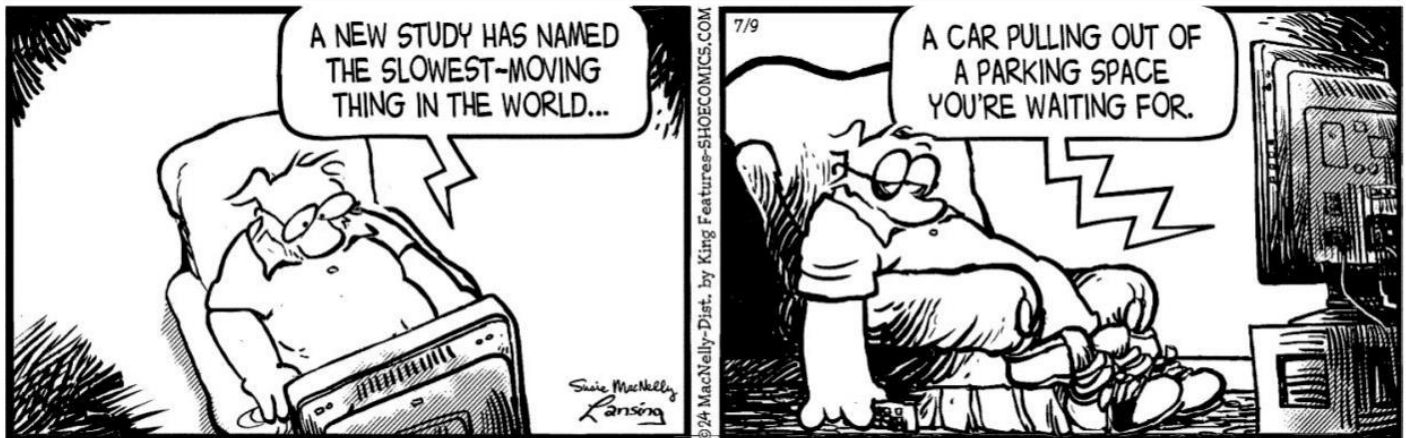
It was Henry Ford II that pushed for production to begin as early as it did. It's curious to note that the first new Ford, a white 1946 Super DeLuxe Tudor sedan, went to President Harry S. Truman. In 1945 34,440 Fords were produced for the 1946 model year, which was more cars than any other carmaker pumped out by the end of the year.

The 1946 vehicles were more or less 1942 models, which was the case for many major automakers, all of which were eager to get their automotive assembly lines rolling again. Many manufacturers wouldn't come out with a brand-new model or body style until 1949.



The dusty interior of a tired 1946 Ford

SHOE BROOKINS & MACNELLY



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 can be updated.

Thunderbird Generations

It is generally acknowledged that there are 11 generations of the Ford Thunderbird:

Generation #1: 1955-57 – Baby Bird/Early Bird

Generation #2: 1958-60 – Square Bird

Generation #3: 1961-63 – Bullet Bird

Generation #4: 1964-66 – Flair Bird

Generation #5: 1967-72 – Glamour Birds

Generation #6: 1972-76 – Big Birds

Generation #7: 1977-79 – Torino Birds

Generation #8: 1980-82 – Box/Fox/Fairmont Bird

Generation #9: 1983-88 – Aero Birds

Generation #10: 1989-97 – Super Bird

Generation #11: 2002-05 – Retro Birds

As we know, the iconic Thunderbird passed through a number of size and vehicle segment categories over its 50 years history. It has always been considered a personal luxury car even from the beginning in 1955. From sports car, to personal luxury car, to luxury car. From sports car to full size to intermediate size, to something in between. This transition is no more evident than in the photo below. In just 8 years 1972 until 1980, the Thunderbird went from full size personal luxury car (Generation #6), to an intermediate personal luxury car (Generation #7) to something in between (Generation #8). But not back to its roots. By 1980 Thunderbird had certainly lost its direction and focus. Recovery started in 1983 and the Thunderbird finally returned to its roots in 2002. Let's hope that any future Thunderbird follows the most recent trend.



July Thunderbird Quiz



Who is the Actor: **Shelley Fabares**

What Year Is The Thunderbird?: **1957**

Bonus: What talents are she most famous/remembered for: **Singing and Acting. Johnny Angel & The Donna Reed Show**

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

It is never too late to submit your answer.

June Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Celebrity with his TBird?:

What Year Is The Thunderbird?:

Bonus: The Thunderbird is a gift from the gentleman standing to the left of the celebrity (right in the photo). Who is he?

Extra Bonus: What was the gift for?

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

March: Ann Collins / Scott Mummert

April: Marsha Dixon

May: Gary Faircloth / Anne Collins / Scott Mummert

June: Dave Thomas

July: Cathy Kelly

CLASSIFIEDS



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 \$15 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.

Collector's Corner:

For those of us that are collectors of Thunderbird models and memorabilia, the diecast model makers have finally discovered that there is a market for the "big" Birds, the 1972-76 versions of this great marque. These are previewed below. Let me know in advance if you are interested in any of them to be certain I have enough to meet demand. *Skip*

GREENLIGHT
1:64 SCALE COLLECTIBLES

SHOWROOM
Floor



1974

These are 1:64 scale produced by Greenlight. Price will be about \$7.00 each. I expect to have them available mid-year.



39150E - 1:64 1976 Ford Thunderbird
"Treat Yourself to One of the World's Great Luxury Car Buys"

These are by Goldvarg. They are superb quality and are very well detailed. And they are pricey, about \$80 each to MATC members, retail is \$100+. Other manufacturer models of the same quality are 2-3 times more expensive. The model year is 1976. I expect to have these later this year. A very limited quantity of about 150 each is being produced so if interested let me know ASAP. They are sold out at Goldvarg and my source only has a few still available from their allotment.





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.midatlanticbirdclub.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.

March/April 2020

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MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OUR 50TH 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

