

December 2025

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MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- December 13, 1957: The last "Baby Bird" is produced.



Mark Your Calendars For These Great Activities & Events:

Third Thursday TBird Lunch- No Lunch In December****

Madonna Seafood House, 4105 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161

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Wednesday December 10 – Tbird Lunch – 12 Noon

Inn 94, 4805 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford, PA

Join MATC members for what might become a monthly lunch outing. Other TBird clubs have been invited to join. A lunch venue in the Baltimore area and south is being investigated too.

RSVP by Dec 6th: Earl Dickinson 717-873-8051

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Sunday December 14, 2025 – 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

2025 Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club Christmas Dinner

Dobbin House / Gettysburg Pennsylvania.

See attached response form. You can also pay your 2026 dues and support our charitable partner "Classic & Custom Car Educational Foundation".

Also attached is the ballot for the 2025-2026 slate of officers.

Many responses can be completed electronically online.

PLEASE RESPOND ASAP!! DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8th!!



President's Message December 2025

Happy Holidays to everyone. We hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and are preparing for a Merry Christmas or whatever holiday you celebrate. Please keep Lynn Horn in your thoughts and prayers as she just lost her husband, John, in November. And hold close Zoeanne and Dan Denham as his condition worsens.

Christmas Dinner will be at Dobbin House in Gettysburg again, Sunday, December 13, 12-4pm to make everyone happy with driving daylight! We hope to see many of you there as this is a favorite outing of the club and a beautiful venue.



Also if so inclined, please send a separate check to **Custom and Classic Educational Foundation**, which is the fund that our charity Save The Hobby uses to help educate young people in the skill of working on classic cars like ours.

If you didn't send your annual **dues** renewal with your Christmas Dinner registration, please do that soon. The club needs those dues to keep functioning. Compared to other clubs our \$25 dues are really cheap!

Election of officers just happened. Results will be announced at the Christmas dinner.

We will be selecting a date for a Board Meeting sometime in January to precede our annual **Members Meeting on February 1, 2026.**

Our December Third Thursday Tbird **Lunch** has been cancelled since it is just a few days after the Christmas Dinner. We will be back to lunch on Jan. 15 at a place to be announced. Also for the folks in the North, please feel free to join the Dickinsons and Schrolls at the Inn 94 in New Oxford PA on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon. Let Earl know if you will be attending.

Merry Christmas,

Cathy & Steve



EVENTS CALENDAR

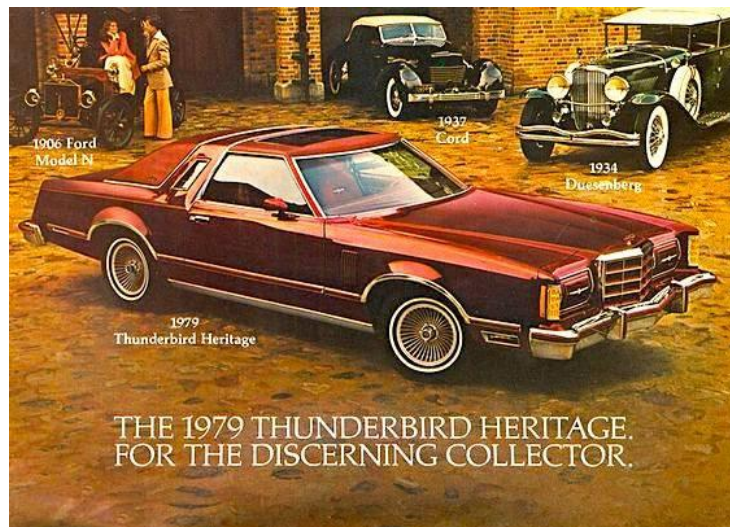
*Official MATC/ITC activities are marked with *** and printed in bold. Our Thunderbird Club events are open to all years of Thunderbirds. Other events such as "AACA" events adhere to the 25-year rule or other designation. Applicable restrictions will be noted with each event.*

Date	Event	Sponsor	Location	Additional Information
Third Thursday 11:30 AM Monthly	Monthly Lunch Gathering	***MATC	Madonna Seafood House 4105 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161	Just north of Jarrettsville on Rt 23. Just past the flashing red light.
All Year 7-9 AM	Cars & Coffee: No Competition, No Trophies, Just Fun & Socialization	-	Bel Air Plaza SC Bel Air, MD	7-9 Am, Every Sunday Weather permitting
2025				
Dec 10	MATC PA Lunch Group	***MATC	Inn 94, New Oxford PA	See Info On Page #1
Dec 14	MATC Christmas Dinner	***MATC	Dobbin House Gettysburg PA	Additional Details Forthcoming
2026				
Jan TBD	MATC Officers Planning Meeting	***MATC	TBD	Details To Follow
Feb 1	2026 Kick-Off Meeting	***MATC	Bel Air United Methodist Church	Details To Follow
May 17	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD	Details To Follow
June 5-7	Carlisle Ford Nationals	***MATC VTCI	Carlisle, PA Fairgrounds	See Details below

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





The officers and members of MATC wish the following member(s) a very happy birthday:

November Birthdays:

Barbara Melnyk (21) Candace Bossoli

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

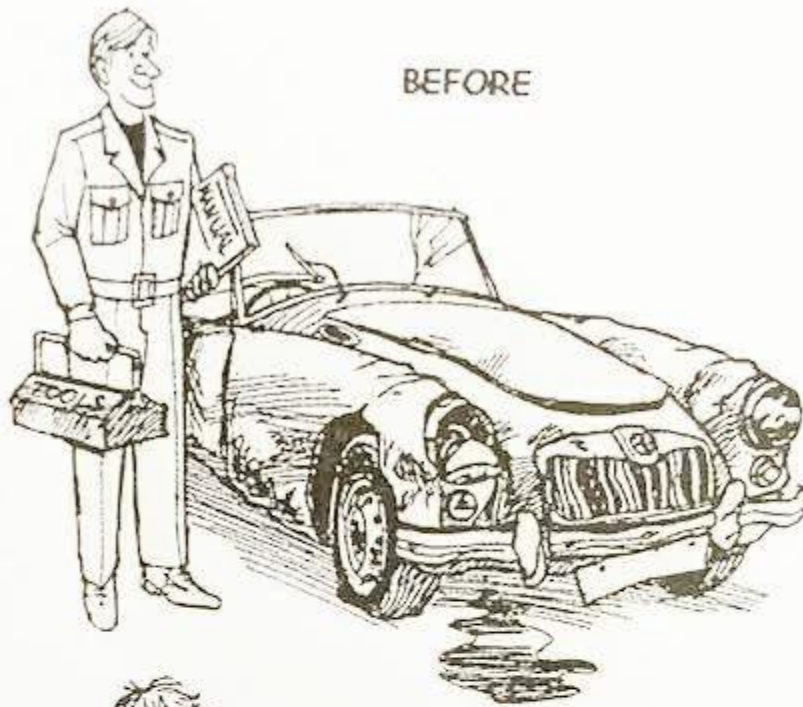
Member News & Happenings:

- Longtime MATC members Betty & Tom Marcellino were involved in a vehicle mishap earlier in November. Their car was totaled and Betty experienced some bumps and bruises and was shaken up. Tom did not receive serious injuries. Tom advises "they are doing OK. Betty still has a shoulder issue from time to time". MATC members are happy that it was not more serious other than the damage to the car (not a Thunderbird or their Mustang).
- Newsletter Editor **Skip Panowitz** has mostly recovered from a fractured hand as a result of his feet stopping while walking when the rest of his body did not (the four letter "F" word that is an enigma to older folks will not be used here). No more splint, sling or brace. Total recovery will be about 6 months.
- It is with sadness that we must report the passing of John Horn. John and Lynn have been long time members of MATC. Lynn currently serves as the Secretary. There are no formal plans for a remembrance yet. You can send thoughts and condolences to Lynn at 8810 Walther Blvd, APT 2209, Parkville, MD 21234 or lynnhorn704@gmail.com.
- Sunshine Lady Barb Panowitz needs a little sunshine in her life about now. She is recovering from a fall (oops) that injured her shoulder, face and nose while chasing pink flamingoes (another story in itself). Fortunately, there are no fractures. But her pretty face shows a few scrapes and bruises. She is experiencing some shoulder pain which rest and medication helps to control.
- Please keep our members dealing with a variety of medical issues in your thoughts and prayers:
Dan Denham

MATC members are reminded and encouraged to provide Barb with any important information regarding health issues, special occasions, awards, etc., for appropriate recognition. Barb's contact info: 443-504-5542 (phone or text); ladyofthelake21014@yahoo.com.

Please keep our convalescing members in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with their medical issues.

BEFORE



AFTER



The 3,000-Mile Oil Change Rule Is Ludicrous: Here's Why

BY ABHIK DAS NOV. 5, 2025 5:25 AM EST



For decades, the golden rule of engine care has been pretty simple — change the engine oil every 3,000 miles. It's one of those maintenance mantras so ingrained in practice that most drivers never question it. After all, changing the oil more often can't hurt, right? So what's the problem, and why are we even talking about it? Because in 2025, that old rule is about as current as an ashtray in a new EV. Some of you already know this, and for everyone else clutching your service stickers in disbelief, let's slip on the nerdy glasses and dig in.

Cars have evolved dramatically over the last few decades, and so has what flows through their engines. Modern engines use lighter-weight oils that are far more durable than the dinosaur juice of yesteryear. With these advanced engine oils coupled with newer automotive tech, the average oil-change interval has nearly doubled, stretching closer to 7,500 miles. Synthetic engine oil tech pushes the change intervals even further, up to 15,000 miles. Sure, there's a higher up-front cost, but the savings in the long run are undeniable.

The every-3,000-miles rule of thumb came about in a time when engines were less sophisticated than they are now. Older engines tend to burn more oil due to wider tolerances and damaged seals leading to leaks. But the 3,000-mile oil change myth refuses to die — not because the engines need it, but because someone profits when you believe they do.

Quick-lube chains and dealership services have built an entire business model on this ritual. Those friendly windshield stickers that tell you to come back in 3,000 miles aren't reminders, they're hooks, subtle little nudges to keep you returning whether your car needs attention or not. In truth, most modern vehicles can safely run 7,500 to 10,000 miles, as modern synthetic engine oils last a long time before the oil even begins to break down. Still, plenty of shops cling to the old script, knowing that fear of engine failure keeps customers obedient and service bays full.

The money trail is hard to ignore. Industry publications openly admit that more frequent oil changes translate into higher profits, not better protection. For a typical midsize SUV, unnecessary extra oil changes and the add-ons that are pushed alongside them — filters, flushes, engine oil additives — can total \$1,800 over the vehicle's lifetime. Some service shops even print shorter intervals than the manufacturer recommends, encouraging you to come back early and often. But this is an outdated habit wrapped in the illusion of care. Changing your oil too often won't wreck your car, but it will slowly drain your wallet — while padding someone else's.

How to really know when your car needs an oil change

Short answer — stop guessing! Your car does burn engine oil, and that's normal. There are certain scenarios in which this consumption is accelerated leading to sudden increase in oil consumption, like leaks or worn valve seals, and a quick dipstick reading will reveal this. Your best ally however, is the recommended oil change intervals in the owner's manual, and the car's own oil-life monitoring system, if it has one. These systems track a variety of operating variables beyond simple mileage, to estimate engine oil degradation.

Driver behavior and cumulative operating conditions are what truly dictate oil life. Older cars usually had one schedule for "normal" use and another for what the manual ominously called "severe service." That second list covered aspects like frequent short five-mile hops that never let the engine warm up, sweltering summers, icy winters, bumper-to-bumper commutes, or hauling heavy loads and trailers. If that sounds like your daily drive, your car deserves the stricter oil-change timeline. But if you mostly rack up smooth, steady miles, you can relax and stick to the standard interval. Your engine won't mind. Neither will your wallet.

Base engine oil changes on oil type, driving habits, the car's systems, and the quality of engine oil you select. Shops still push 3,000 miles because it's lucrative for them, but for most modern vehicles it's unnecessary and wasteful. Making smarter, educated choices saves cash and more importantly, reduces environmental impact from used motor oil collection and disposal.

Some High Tech Communications History

Thanks to Earl Dickinson for the extensive research to unearth this information.

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story in the LA Times newspaper read ... 'California archaeologists discover 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.'

One week later, a newspaper in Lancaster, PA reported the following ... 'After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Bird-In-Hand, PA ... Levi Stoltzfus, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Levi, has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Pennsylvania had already gone wireless.'

Makes one proud to be from Pennsylvania!



No comment necessary. The good news-the driver walked away virtually uninjured.

2025 Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club Christmas Dinner

**The Dobbin House
89 Steinwehr Ave.
Gettysburg PA**

**Sunday, Dec 14, 2025
Social Time 12-12:30pm – cash bar
Dinner at 12:30pm – 3pm
Presentations and comments 3-4pm
Cost: \$30.00 per person**

Earlier Time!

Holiday Buffet Menu

Salad and Bread Bars

Entrees

Chicken coq au vin
Ham w Pineapple Raisin sauce
Penne Pasta w Tomato sauce

Vegetables

Oven Roasted Red Potatoes
Rice Pilaf
Buttered Dill Carrots
Green Beans Almondine

A variety of Holiday Desserts

Beverages

Coffee, Ice Tea, & Soda

Directions

From PA, come across Rt 30 or down Rt 15.
From the South, come up Rt 15.
From the East you can come over I70 and up Rt 15 or use GPS and the back roads.

Set your GPS to Dobbin House, 80 Steinwehr AV, Gettysburg PA



Member Name(s) _____

_____ Number of adults @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

_____ 2026 Membership Renewal (optional)
\$25 includes email newsletter

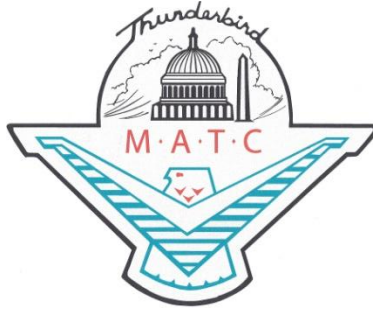
Please include Membership Application found in newsletter

Total Remittance \$ _____

**Please send bottom of form and check made out to MATC,
Ron Hill, 1905 Cypress Dr, Bel Air MD 21015**

Don't forget our charity this year has been Save The Hobby, who support The Custom and Classic Educational Foundation. The vision of that organization is to bring in and inspire future generations of youth into the car hobby. They also publish the Car Show and Cruise Guide.





Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club Ballot

For the 2026 Term

(Please submit to MATC Secretary Lynn Horn by November 30, 2025. Send via email to: secretary@midatlantictbirdclub.org, or mail to 8810 Walther Blvd, apt 2209, Parkville MD 21234

(If you Write In a candidate, make sure they have given you permission.)

A) For Vice President (vote for one):

Mike Melnyk _____

_____ (Write in Candidate)

B) For Treasurer (vote for one):

Ron Hill _____

_____ (Write in Candidate)

C) For Board of Directors (vote for two):

Tom Young _____

Steve Dameron _____

_____ (Write in Candidate)

Member Name (printed) _____

Member Signature _____

Member Name (printed) _____

Member Signature _____

Upcoming "Thunderbird" Events 2026

Thunderbird Friends Reunion #3, Carlisle, PA, June 5-7, 2026

A reunion of Thunderbird friends is again being planned in conjunction with the 2026 Carlisle Ford Nationals. A block of rooms has been reserved. The reservation link will be posted soon. We are again getting a special room rate and a hospitality room will be available. The host hotel information is listed below. [Ask for Thunderbird Friends group:](#)

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

Hotel direct link: [Thunderbird Friends Carlisle 2026](#)

Restaurant arrangements:

Friday Night, June 5, Time & location TBD:
Stay tuned for more details in the future.

Saturday Night, June 6, 6:30 PM:
Rustic Tavern, 823 Newville Road, Carlisle, PA

It was a big hit last year and is back again by popular demand. There will be a be dedicated menu, similar to last year, that will be published later. The food is great and prices are reasonable.

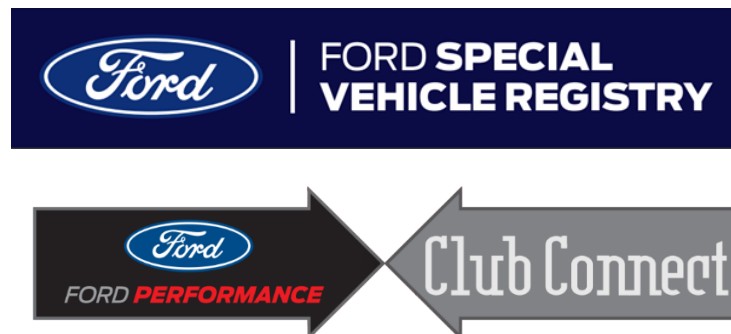
Note: Seating is will again likely be very, very limited.

2026 Carlisle FORD Nationals **June 5, 6, 7**

Check the Carlisleevents.com website for information regarding early registration discounts.

VERY IMPORTANT: Register your club affiliation as VTCT

We had a great time this year (see photos) in spite of a little rain. Well, a lot of rain in a very short period of time. Plan to join us in 2026.



MATC is now officially a part of Ford Performance-Club Connect. This is another opportunity for Thunderbird owners to learn about our club and top promote events. Check it out at:

www.FordPerformanceClubConnect.com



From Anne Collins: "My friend Peg went to the West Melbourne, FL Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW 4206) annual car show on September 27. She sent me 2 great Thunderbird photos." Be sure to read the sign board in front of the car. As rare as this car is from an equipment and options standpoint per the sign board, the bird on the hood trumps everything else IMO. ed



November/December
Thunderbird Celebrity Quiz



Who is the celebrity with The TBird?:

What Year Is The Thunderbird?:

Bonus: What is the celebrity famous for?

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

It is never too late to submit your answer.

**Note: Since no one correctly identified both the
celebrity and car the quiz is being carried over until
December. Finally, a stumper!!**

October
Celebrity Thunderbird Quiz



Who is the celebrity with The TBird?:

Glynnis Johns

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

Bonus: What famous, well known film
did she appear in?: ***Mary Poppins***
(suffragette mother Winifred Banks)
Congratulations to Judy Dickinson

Previous Winners:

2024

February: Judy Dickinson
March: Ann Collins / Scott Mummert
April: Marsha Dixon
May: Gary Faircloth / Anne Collins / Scott Mummert
June: Dave Thomas
July: Cathy Kelly
August: Phyllis Cherry
September: Scott mummert, Bob Bossoli
October: Dave Thomas
November: Barb Melnyk
December: Cathy Kelley

2025

January: Earl Dickinson
February: Dan Luber, Earl Dickinson
March: Bob Bossoli
April: Bob Bossoli
May: Scott Mummert
June: Phyllis Cherry
July: Bob Bossoli
August: Phyllis Cherry
September: Steve Dameron, Earl Dickinson
October: Judy Dickinson

CLASSIFIEDS

THUNDERBIRD PROMOTIONAL MODEL CARS

Through the very gracious generosity of club member Dave Shelton, we have four (now three-thank you Scott!) Ford Thunderbird promotional model cars available for purchase by club members. If you are not familiar with “promos”, they were produced by various model manufacturers for the car manufacturers from the late 1940s through 2017. They were most available and popular in the 1950s and 1960s. They are detailed, accurate models of the cars they represent. Car dealers gave them to customers who bought the real cars and they sold the models as well. The car manufacturers distributed them for promotional purposes, hence their name. They were also sold at various retail outlets, but these versions are slightly different in that they have flywheel motors to propel them. Although these versions were unfortunately often purchased as toys, they are still truly collector items. The cars MATC has available are true dealer promos, also referred to as coasters as they do not have the flywheel motors (with one exception, the 1957, which was only available in the version offered). The true dealer promos tend to be slightly more valuable, but condition, color, etc., is always the most important factor.

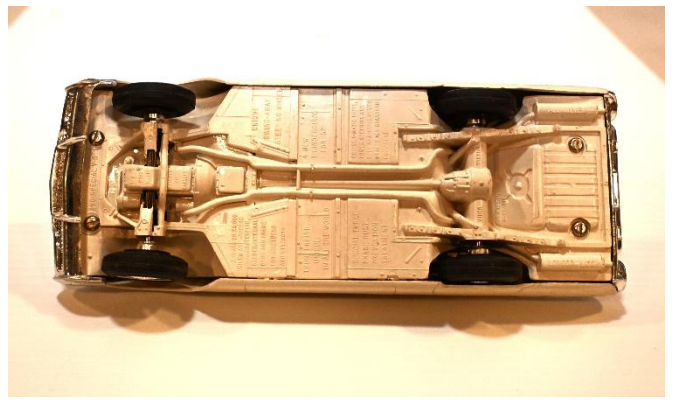
It has been decided the the funds from the sale of these cars would be donated to our charitable partner **“Custom & Classic Car Education Foundation”**(savethehobby.org). Checks for the purchase of the model cars should be made payable to the CCCEF. So you not only get a great collectible, but you support a great cause as well. The cars being offered are in very good to excellent condition. The price of the cars is **\$45** each. I will have them available at the Christmas Dinner as well as future MATC events.



1963 Thunderbird Hardtop

Color is Fieldstone Tan





1962 Hardtop-Color is Sahara Rose: Note undercarriage detail & sales info on dealer version



1957 – Color is Flame Red

Why not consider purchasing one of these great, collectible promotional model cars as your charitable partner donation? You get the deduction for your taxes as well as a great collectible.

1957 Ford Thunderbird



- 87900 miles
- 312 Y block with 4-barrel carb.
- Third owner. Owned since 1987.
- It runs but issue with the front right brake right now.
- All original except for left front fender.
- Transmission: Replaced the oil seals, bearing transmission input and output shaft, filter, and other work.
- Replaced the radiator with transmission oil cooler.
- Replaced the Oil Pump
- Replaced the Shock Absorbers
- Replaced the brake shoes and drums, all wheel cylinder, all brake fluid lines, and master cylinder.
- Replaced both upper and lower ball joints assembly
- Replaced both tie rods and bushing.
- Replaced Idler arm and bushing assembly
- Bushing kit and sealing kit for power steering cylinder.
- Kit for front sway bar and link, insulators and rubber blocks to frame.
- Replaced the gas tank and gas lines.
- Replace engine steady rest grummets.
- Replace all four tires
- Replaced battery last year.
- Replace gas pump.
- Replace four-barrel Holley carburetor with original one model 4150. Last one they had at Tee Bird Products. Still have the old one.
- Replaced freeze plug wiper blades and fuel element and air cleaner
- Replace one broken window on driver's side.
- The car will need to be painted. It has the light original blue I believe from the factory.
- The carpet inside will need to be replaced.
- The rubber on the removeable hard top will need to be replaced.
- Car in Taneytown, MD
- Price: Negotiable.

Butch Colby

Tel. (410) 756-2652 / Fax. (410) 756-1954

Cell (410) 961-7535

butchcolby@comcast.net



70th Anniversary Hats

\$15 Each

(plus s&h as applicable)

While Supply Very Limited Lasts

Contact Cathy or Steve If Interested

You'd look even better in a Thunderbird

There's no better way to complete your clean sharp look than with an all-new '84 Thunderbird. Sleek aerodynamic styling. Large limousine doors. A suspension system like those used on many luxury European sedans. Gas filled shocks. And with tailor-made options like the Exclusive Keyless Pushbutton Entry System, and special monogrammed plaque bearing your signature, you know it's you. So don't let anybody else steel your thunder. Come and get in your 1984 Ford Thunderbird, today.

It's your kind of style.



Have you driven a Ford lately?



Get it together—buckle up.



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:

Ron Hill, Treasurer; 1905 Cypress Drive, Bel Air, 21015; 410-569-0106

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 January 2025)

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

