

Modesto Area Classic T-Bird Club August Newsletter

“Lil” Bird Drop-Ins

Volume 35

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A Message From Our President

August and Hot August Nights; so many years of August Fun. Every August Darlene and I would meet our friends from Washington and Oregon in Reno for 3 or 4 days of cars and parties. We always drove the “Pink Bird” and most of the time it was flawless, but there was one time it was not! It was dark and near Donner Summit when the car blew a small hose out of the water pump. Fortunately a forest service crew stopped and gave us the water in their cooler jug. That got us to a gas station/garage that sold us the hose which I replaced as Darlene held a flash light.

Another year the fuel pump quit and we had to call our daughter-in-law to come and get us. I picked up the Bird the next day.

We have many happy memories of sitting on the curb watching the parade of cars, shows, dinners, swap meets, car parts, signs and auctions. Those were wonderful days and nights in Reno.

Happy T-Birding,

Don Cose

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Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER 13, AT 12:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING

AT ANGELANO'S, 1020 NORTH MAIN ST., MANTECA – PRIVATE ITALIAN/GREEK
BUFFET, \$20 PER PERSON, INCLUDES TAX, TIP, AND BEVERAGE

HOSTS: EARL AND DOLLY REEDY

Happy Birthday

1st Fran Miller

23rd Ruben Tellez



Happy Anniversary

4th Keith & Elaine Rogers

6th Bill a& Joan Graham

25th Earl & Dolly Reedy

31st Joe & Sandy Hood



Events And Business Meetings Scheduled for 2015

August 2nd, 11:30: Business meeting, Chicago Uno Grill on Dale Road, Modesto. Hosted by Pat Mason.

August 16th: Fallon House Theater, "Music Man," matinee, and dinner. Hosted by Darlene and Don Cose

September 13th, 12:00: Business meeting, Angelano's, 1020 N. Main, Manteca. Hosted by Dolly & Earl Reedy

September 25—27: T-Birds on the Santa Cruz Wharf, tour hosted by Dolly and Earl Reedy.

October 11th, 11:30: Business meeting, LaCascada Mexican Restaurant, 2704 Mitchell, Ceres. Hosted by Sandy and Joe Hood.

November 8th: Business meeting hosted by Elaine and Keith Rogers.

December 13th, Christmas Party at Green's, 10th Street in Modesto: Hosted by Donna Montavon and Pat Mason.

August Featured Car



Jan & Don Wigle



As we drove back from Monterey on a fall Wednesday evening a few years ago, Jan and I were discussing the merits of the white 1955 Thunderbird we had gone to inspect. It wasn't bad, it was complete, had no major rust, and it drove okay. However, much of what had been done to it in recent years had been poorly done. Things like runs in the paint, bumpers that appeared to have been painted silver with a spray can and an interior that didn't fit exactly right. All of which would have to be redone adding to the \$15,000 asking price. At that, it didn't seem like much of a bargain, so we decided to pass.

Then Saturday morning the owner called and cut his price in half.

Saturday evening our Thunderbird adventure began.

The ride home wasn't bad and people complimented us on the car, took pictures and so on. If I just hadn't told our son, who was following us, where we would have trouble if we had any, just before the top of Pacheco Pass, the car probably wouldn't have suddenly and inexplicably died. After about a minute it restarted and we continued home without problems.

Over the next couple of days we decided to make the Thunderbird safer, more comfortable, then drive it for a while. Since the wipers were disconnected, I figured the motor was broken, so electric wipers were ordered. Jan wanted three point seat belts, so I installed those. One just has to have a radio, so a new stereo was next.

I thought we were just about ready when I noticed the heater hoses. The previous owner had told us he had recently fixed the heater. What he had done was a slightly different definition of fixing than mine. The ends of the heater hoses had been plugged with spark plugs which were then slipped into the heater core so it didn't leak, but of course, it also didn't work.

Not wanting to go into winter without a heater, I started taking the "Bird" apart. New paint was necessary, not only because of the runs, but the last paint job had been done with the hardtop in place resulting in a two-tone white rear deck. After taking off at least three layers of paint and several pounds of body filler and redoing some creative metal work, I was ready for paint. It was mid-summer when I was finally able to spray the color coat, a color that was listed as light aqua, though the can just said aqua.

Of course none of the standard upholstery colors went with the aqua color, so we ordered seat covers made with '56 buckskin and '55 white inserts. Besides the paint and interior, I have managed to come up with reasons to make a variety of mechanical changes including, but not limited to: a combination heater and air conditioner, power disc brakes, power rack and pinion steering, a new wiring harness complete with a real fuse block, a transmission from a 1970 Mustang, front and rear sway bars, rebuilding the front and rear suspension, some modifications to the engine, a new windshield, convertible top, realigning the body with the frame, as well as replacing most of the chrome trim a little at a time. There will be more as time passes, power windows perhaps.

One of the things that makes this Thunderbird special to us is that it has been in a shop only twice since we bought it, once when somebody else's insurance paid for bodywork and when I had the exhaust redone to accommodate the headers. Because the work is mine, I know all the flaws and look forward to eliminating them one of these days.

The owning and driving experience has been very gratifying. We always have to allow extra time as someone will want to talk to us about the car. High on our list of things we enjoy is when somebody asks if they can take a picture;. We ask for their camera and have them pose with the car, preferably in the driver's seat. The look they get when sitting in the car makes our day. I also have to say that joining the club and participating in club activities has multiplied our enjoyment of the Thunderbird several times over.



**18TH ANNUAL THUNDERBIRDS
ON THE SANTA CRUZ WHARF**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 - 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

Earl and Dolly are hosting the club's group trip to Santa Cruz. The group will meet at Pea Soup Anderson's at 1:00 on Friday, September 25th to caravan to Aptos. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Best Western Seacrest Motel at the rate of \$224.95 per night. Room reservations needed to be made by July 20th. 1-831-688-7300.

Tentative plans are to enjoy snacks and drinks at the motel on Friday evening. Saturday is the show on the wharf and Saturday night dinner at Severino's at the motel. Sunday the group may plan something in the Santa Cruz area, or you are on your own. Contact Dolly and Earl for additional information.

FOR SALE/TRADE/FREE

Know someone who has a T-Bird for sale? Do you have T-Bird parts you want to sell, trade or giveaway? Have you recently tackled a technical or mechanical issue, made changes to your car and wish to share information that could be of benefit to our members, then submit it to our editor by the 25th of the month. (Editorial discretion always applies.)



**Notes
from Jim
Montovan**

Hello T-Birders,

Our July has been busy, busy, busy. We got home after a 3100 mile, eight day drive from Ohio which was a great trip. We hit old route 66 a number of times and saw lots of business carcasses from a bygone era. We stumbled across a few classic car museums along the way, including a couple of little bird beauties, and Tbird signs and photos that added to the enjoyment. And, if you ever get the chance, go see the Oklahoma City memorial where 168 lives were lost in the Murray Federal Building bombing in 1995. It is a beautiful memorial, yet a most somber experience to walk the grounds where that terrible terrorist act occurred.

I entered "Brand X" in the Fruit Yard F100 Elite car show only to find Sandy Hood, Pat Mason, Jan Peterson, Janell Smith, Smitty's widow, and other friends gathered to have fun and show off Sandy's Black Chrome and Joe's 1963 Galaxie. We had a great time. They won lots of raffle prizes and Sandy's bird won an award. Congratulations Sandy! Hooray again for our Birds getting exposed and recognized.

Lots of activities coming up! See you in August.

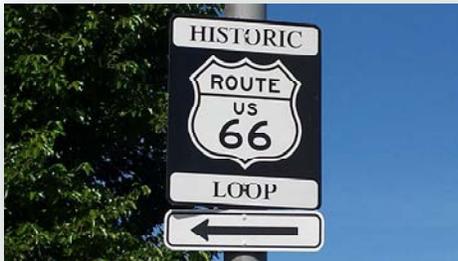
Jim



Anheuser Busch Brewery, St. Louis, Mo.



On display with a small group of cars at a Route 66 memorabilia store south of Grand Canyon.



30's something Studebaker relic along old Route 66 at the Painted Desert in Arizona

Jim & Donna's trip across the states!



The bubble gum pink Tbird was part of a privately owned collection/museum at Travel Center truck stop in Endee, New Mexico



TWT Bird license plate in Endee, New Mexico. Sounds familiar!



Sign with the yellow T-Bird in Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton, Oklahoma

Thank you for the calls and cards expressing condolences for the loss of my grandmother; it was very kind and thought full. We appreciate all of our T-Bird friends.

Sincerely, Ruben and Katrina Tellez

Copies of Early Bird

Older copies of Early Bird magazines are available online at the CTCI website. If you want a specific copy of a newer magazine you can call Jennifer at CTCI headquarters, 1-800-488-2709, and pay with a credit card. Two copies runs about \$18 including postage.

License Plate Holder

For Your Special T-Bird

Keith still has Modesto Area Classic T-bird Club license plate holders available at the cost of \$19 per plate. They will be available at our August Meeting.



Sandy Hood and her 1956 "Black Chrome" took an "Outstanding" award at the Fruit Yard F100 Elite Car Show on July 19th. Sandy is racking up trophies and loving it!

Got a call the other day:

From Bernadette McEwen who wanted us to know that she was thinking of us and enjoys receiving our monthly newsletter. She is living in Sonora and misses her friend George Hatcher. We miss you Bernadette!



Region Six Convention—August 26 to 30,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

42nd Annual Pageant of the Thunderbird,
September 19th, Anaheim, California.

A heart felt thank you to our friends for the many beautiful condolence cards, thoughtful phone calls, and for sharing time with us during this most difficult time. Through the years Mimi enjoyed attending our T-Bird meetings and visiting with friends. She will be greatly missed.

Sincerely Roberta and Ken Van Dyke