

**Modesto Area Classic  
T-Bird Club January Newsletter  
35th Anniversary Edition**

Volume 36 - Issue Number 1

January 2016



**A Message From Our President:**

Donna and I just finished our 43rd Christmas together with our family. We feel so lucky and blessed and hope each of you enjoyed your Christmas season as much as we did. It included a great club Christmas gathering at Famiglia Bistro thanks to Pat Mason for a great job and to all of you who were able to attend. Because of your generosity and love we were able to provide food and toys to three charities.

Here we go into 2016 and another fun filled year as a club. I understand it is the 35th anniversary for the club. WOW! and THANKS to the founders for their vision!

We added a new member in 2015, Jim Darwin, and soon will have Lyle & Vicki Burgess join us. THANKS to all who recruited new members.

I am really excited about our new officers this year and will rely on them for help. Filling Don Cose's shoes, as well as those of former presidents, will be impossible but I will try my best. Thanks to Donna and all of you who support me in my role as president.

Tweety Bird's paint job is on schedule with an anticipated return home in late January. Donna should have time to put her all back together by spring. (ha ha)

Jim Ridenour is way ahead of where I was last year with organizing car shows, club events, meeting hosts, and QC. Some of you are already looking ahead and planning events. January is generally down time for our cars, but a perfect time to plan ahead and get our calendar set for lots of activities. **Jim Montavon**

**Officers & Chairpersons**

**President:**

Jim Montavon.....209 522-8830 H  
209 872-1333 C  
Email: jmonta9944@aol.com

**Vice President:**

Jim Ridenour.....209 529-8283 H  
916 342-7590 C  
Email: rideno3@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Elaine Rogers.....209 527-2639

**Secretary:**

Katrina Tellez.....209 526-6103

**CTCI:**

Don Cose.....209 835-2203

**Board Members:**

Earl Reedy.....209 823-0258

Keith Rogers.....209 527-2639

**Newsletter/Publicity:**

Pat Mason.....209 538-1130  
Email: patriciaamason@aol.com

**Sunshine:**

Shirley Mattos.....209 521-2498

**Raffle:**

Sandy & Joe Hood.....209 883-1122



# Mark Your Calendar

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BUSINESS MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, AT NOON

FAMIGLIA BISTRO RISTORANTE

2501 MCHENRY AVENUE, MODESTO

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - PLANNING FOR 2016

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HOSTS: SANDY & JOE HOOD AND PAT MASON

DIRECTIONS: TAKE BRIGGSMORE EXIT ON 99, EAST TO MCHENRY, TURN LEFT.

4th Jim Darwin

15th Bill Graham

19th Ken Van Dyke

22nd Joe Hood

26th Darlene Cose



Our January Business Meeting is one of the most important meetings of the year as we schedule our meetings for the remainder of the year and ask our members to sign up to host at least one event, business meeting, tour, or event. Our Vice President, Jim Ridenour, will be assuming the responsibility of scheduling and coordinating meetings, tours and car shows. Please come prepared to sign up to host a meeting, or sponsor a tour for 2016.

## Calendar These Upcoming Events

January 30th & 31st Turlock Swap Meet: Saturday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Admission is \$10 on Saturday, and \$5 on Sunday.

April 30th: Show & Shine at Parkview Christian Estates.

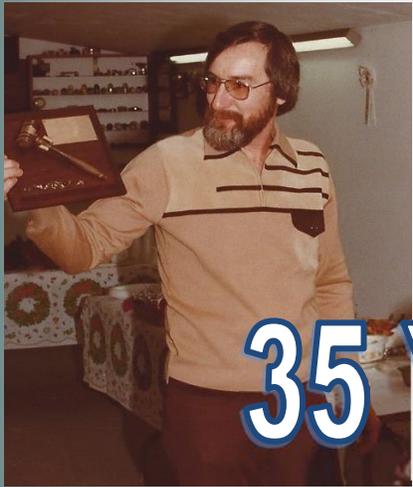
June 9th through 12th: QC+XXXIX at Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Tehachapi.

June 10th: Graffiti Parade, downtown Modesto.

June 11th & 12th: Graffiti USA Car Show at Muni Golf Course, Modesto.

September 15th through 18th: CTCI Convention at Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego.

*A full calendar of meeting dates and events for 2016 will be published in the February newsletter.*



# 35 Years Ago

*Marlon Helton*



*Jan Peterson*

## Notes From January of 1981

The flyer that was sent out to Modesto area residents informing them of an informal meeting of T-Bird owners was the beginning of "Modesto Area Classic Thunderbird Club." Thanks to Jan Peterson of Turlock, and Marlon Helton of Modesto.

The first official meeting was held at Griswold and Wright Ford in Modesto. The next two meetings were held at the Modesto Irrigation District building in Modesto. The club then found a home through Joe Stewart which was the Modern Steel Structures Building on Starlight Drive in Ceres.

The club's first president was Marlon Helton. Vice President unfilled. Secretary was Dorothy Selander. Treasurer was Jan Peterson. The membership consisted of thirty six members and the meetings were held the second Thursday of each month.

In March of 1981 the club adopted a club emblem and made plans to accept heir CTCI Charter at the August convention in Toronto Canada.

Some of the activities the first year were as follows:

Trip to Castle Air Force Base; Daffodil Hill; Rio Vista to view Foster's Big Horn Collection; Mickie's Grove to "All Fords Day" picnic; participation in Modesto's Fourth of July Parade, and display of cars at the Manteca Pumpkin Festival.

December brought the Christmas party and installation of new officers. The event was held at the home of Jan Peterson's parents in Turlock.

The club's constitution and by-laws spelled out the club was a non profit social car club whose objectives were to promote the preservation and restoration of 1955, 1956, and 1967 Ford Thunderbirds; promote friendship, social activities and provide a medium of exchange of ideas and technical events, information and safety.

## *Don's Tech Column—Upgrade to a PCV Valve*

Beginning with the 1961 model year, California required new cars to be equipped with a positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve for smog control reasons. I never really thought much of it other than another thing I had to keep clean and working effectively. My attitude about PCV valves changed several years ago because the sailboat we had at the time used an inboard gas engine. After long sessions of motoring, the cabin would definitely have the odor of engine fumes. After tracing the source of the smell to the boating equivalent of a road-draft tube, I bought a kit to install a PCV valve and the smell disappeared.

After buying the Thunderbird, I noticed a familiar smell when we went places with the top on, as well as some dripping from the draft tube where fumes would condense and drop on the garage floor. By installing a PCV valve, both those problems were eliminated. There is virtually no downside as long as your engine is in decent condition. Many people think that it might hurt the performance, but as it works on intake vacuum, it doesn't pull fumes into the engine on acceleration. The conversion undoubtable doesn't meet Concours standards, but it can be easily undone if necessary for show.

The idea is to replace this tube, which comes out of the engine valley cover on the driver's side near the distributor then crosses over and exits on the passenger side near the starter. This picture shows the tube lying down, but the right side is vertical. I believe just two bolts hold it on.



**Don Wigle**

Howdy T-Birders,

I sure hope everybody had a nice Christmas and brought the New Year in with a bang. As I think back on last year I can't help but wonder if our club set a record for the number of car shows we attended. There were three car shows where we had five or more cars from our club and numerous shows where we had at least one of our T-Birds. Our members managed to capture some nice awards and trophies.

I would like to see if we can do better this year! Car shows and festivals start as early as April and in 2015 the last one was in December. There is ample opportunity for everyone to attend at least one car show or festival. For me, car shows provide an excuse to relax, visit with friends, make new friends and check out some really nice cars.

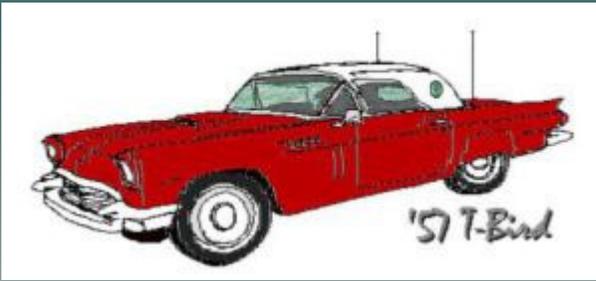
In 2016 I would hope we could gain more participation in car shows and expand our attendance out to such areas as Tracy, Manteca and Lodi.

At the January meeting I will have a sheet ready for you to sign up to host a business meeting and/or tour for 2016. Specific dates have been pre-selected to make sure our meetings/tours do not conflict with holidays and special events. Once the meetings are all scheduled we can start concentrating on events, tours, and over night trips.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Vice President and I look forward to seeing a great turnout from our club at the car shows and festivals in 2016.



**Jim Ridenour**



# 35 Years of T-Birding

## IS IT TIME FOR A NAME CHANGE?

For 35 years our club newsletter has been called “Lil Bird Dropins.” For many this name is nostalgic and they see no need to change. Then we have members who don’t like the inference to bird poop because we are a classy club. I know...you are probably right in the middle! So here is what we are going to do.

At our January meeting we will discuss and vote on whether to change the name. If we vote to change our name, we will accept new names and vote on them at our February meeting. Here are the ones that have been submitted to date:

### Modesto Area Classy Birds

Tbird Tales

The Tbird Trib



## Original Charter Members Who Are Current Members

**Marlon & Terry Helton**

**Don Murrison**

**Jan Peterson**

**Jim & Judy Lyon**

**Galen Rydelius**

**Ken & Roberta VanDyke**



The Modesto Area Classic T-Bird Club was founded in 1981 and was chartered at the CTCI convention in August in Toronto, Canada



**Remember our club’s first professional calendar?**

**The Year was 2012—50th Anniversary Edition**



**Jim and Donna Montavon are anxiously awaiting the return of Tweety Bird from Gary Cooksey's shop. Here are pictures of Tweety's transformation!**

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
**LYLE & VICKI BURGESS**

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**Please welcome Lyle & Vicki to our club. They live in Stockton and drive a White 1957**

**Series E T-Bird**

**Lyle & Vicki Burgess**

**7 Atherton Island, Stockton 95204**

**Home: 209 465-9177 Cell: 200-2706**

**Terry Helton recently was going through a photo album from 1957-58 and found this picture of a class-**



**mate taken on a field trip to New York City. Terry's family was stationed at Mitchel AFB, Long Island, NY. Terry was amazed to see the 1957 Tbird in the background.**



**Ruben & Katrina Tellez and Ken & Roberta VanDyke attended the Coast Guard Chief's Academy graduation in Petaluma for their daughter/granddaughter, Chief Boatswain Mate Kristina Jones. A formal dinner honored the 99 graduates and included a toast to each branch of the military. Speaker for the evening**

**was Admiral Lee, Commander of the Eastern Seaboard. Kristina enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves in 2001. She spent five years on active duty including two deployments. Kristina will be assigned to Rio Vista Station.**

# Christmas Party 2015



*Terry Helton, Ruben Tellez, Myron Helton,  
Jan Peterson and Judy Lyon*



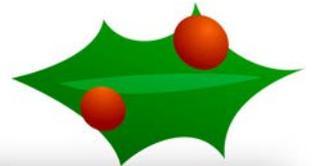
*Katrina Tellez and Shirley Mattos*



*Our new president, Jim  
Montavon, and his gavel  
made by Joe Hood*



*Roberta VanDyke and Janice Martin*



*Thanks to all who contributed  
to the success of our  
Christmas party.*



*Don & Darlene Cose*



*Sandy Hood and Pat Mason*





# Christmas Car Show



December 5th was a cold morning, but it did not deter about 120 cars from coming out to "The Christmas Car Show" at the Regal Theater in Modesto. What a thrill to watch twelve of the large "Toys for Tots" boxes overfilled with toys. Our T-Bird club had two Lil Birds, myself, Don and Bobbi Murrison, and then Jim Montovan and his red Chevy. Jim and Donna's Tweety Bird is in the paint shop. Club visitors Keith and Elaine Rogers, Donna Montavon and Mona Stebbing stopped by to complete our day.

*Contributed by Jim Ridenour*

## A Little Bit of History - 215 Years Ago

Two events converged in the month of December 215 years ago that have had a lasting effect on the history of the automobile.

On December 29, 1800, in New Haven, Connecticut, Charles Goodyear was born. Goodyear did not start the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company – that did not occur until decades after his death – but his persistent work at developing rubber as a commercial product launched the industry that led to the modern automobile tire.

Generally speaking, Goodyear failed at business and his family often had to live off the kindness of others, but he never let go of his desire to develop commercially-viable rubber products. His eureka moment came in 1839, and in 1844 he was granted a patent for the process he called vulcanization. Vulcanization, in the simplest explanation, cures a rubber mixture with heat, allowing it to remain flexible throughout a wide range of temperatures.

Goodyear died in 1860, but on December 20, 1868, Harvey S. Firestone was born in Ohio. Unlike Goodyear, Firestone is directly connected to the company bearing his name, as he was the founder of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. The company grew to become one of the first global makers of automobile tires. Firestone was a close friend of Henry Ford and today Firestone's great grandson is William Clay Ford, the son of Henry Ford's grandson and Harvey Firestone's granddaughter.

**FUN FUN FUN IN THE CALIFORNIA SUN  
2016 CTCI Convention Registration  
Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego  
September 13-18, 2016**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Your CTCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Other/Guest: First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Guest of: \_\_\_\_\_

Children attending (Under 18): Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Convention? \_\_\_\_\_ Your local chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Would you be interested in a car detailer? \_\_\_\_\_

# Judging \_\_\_\_\_ May your car be used for Judging? \_\_\_\_\_ Bringing a hauler/trailer? Size/length for parking purposes \_\_\_\_\_

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**Let's Have Some Fun!**

		\$/Each	#	Total \$
People	Couple/Family (Children under 18 included)	\$65.00		
	Individual, Guest or Adult Children (per person)	\$35.00		
	Late Registration (if postmarked after 8/15/16 add)	\$20.00		
	<b>Registration Deadline for Cars is 8/15/16 - NO EXCEPTIONS</b>			
Vehicles	Concours I (Trailer or driven with undercarriage judged)	\$50.00		
	Concours II (Driven with undercarriage not judged)	\$50.00		
	Touring Class (Must be driven to/from the event)	\$40.00		
and	Display Class ('55-'57 T-Birds on display; not judged)	\$30.00		
Vendors	Secured Parking (Other year T-Birds & collector cars; not judged)	\$30.00		
	Trailer(s)/RV - secured lot (less than 50' total rig length)	\$20.00		
	Trailer(s)/RV - secured lot (over 50' total rig length = 2 vehicles)	\$35.00		
	Vendor Table(s) - 6' x 30", with tablecloth	\$20.00		
	Swap Meet (Sat. 9/17 6a.m.)			
	<b>Please input # people attending (or cars where indicated-incl. no cost events)</b>			
	Board Meeting Wednesday 9/14, 1p.m.			
	Membership Meeting (Wednesday, 9/14, 2p.m.)			
Tours	Ask the Experts Tech Session (Wednesday, 3p.m.)			
	Welcome Party (Wed., no host bar 6p.m.) Pool side 7-10p.m. sign up			
and	U.S.S. Midway Museum with lunch on board at the bow ( <b>Thurs. 9/15</b> )	\$55.00		
	Rd. trip Bus Transp. for Midway (1 <sup>st</sup> bus leaves at 9:30a.m. - <b>signup sheet</b> )	\$18.00		
Events	Sightseeing Trolley (Fri, 9/16, 10a.m.-5p.m.) Pay when you get to Old Town			
	Casino Tour 9a.m. ( <b>35 people min.</b> for Casino provided shuttle 5 hr. min. stay)	\$6.00		
	Driving to Corvette Diner (Fri, 9/16 6p.m.) (Dinner on your own) per car	\$7.00		
	Driving Tour of Scenic Coast to Botanic Gardens (Touring Class 10 extra pts)- <b>Sat. 9/17, 8:30a.m.</b> (fee includes Garden Tour for 2) Admission per car	\$14.00		
	<b>Please indicate how many people will be going on the Garden tour</b>			
	Awards Banquet (Saturday - no host cocktails at 6p.m. dinner at 7p.m.)	\$45.00 ea		
	Roast Pork Loin _____ Chicken Tuscany _____ Mushroom Ravioli _____			
	<b>Apparel order deadline is 8/15/16</b>			
Apparel	Convention T-Shirt S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2 XL _____ 3XL _____	\$20.00		
	Men's Conv. Polo S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2 XL _____ 3XL _____	\$30.00		
	Ladies Conv. Polo S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ (Ladies Polo Shirts tend to run small)	\$30.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

Please mail this form, with a \$U.S. check payable to EBSC 2016  
Thunderbird Convention to:  
Carole Owens, 1051 Burlinghall Dr, Long Beach, CA 90807  
**NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATION AFTER 8/15/16**

For the Crowne Plaza Hotel Reservations call: (619) 297-1101,  
(800)-227-6963 or cp-sandiego.com. Mention "2016 Thunderbird  
Convention" for the \$124 rate. Cancellation policy is 48 hours before.