



'lil' bird drop-ins

Modesto Area Classic Thunderbird Club, Inc.
modestotbirdclub.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

THUNDERBIRDS & THE END OF SUMMERS SIZZLE

Sunday • September 14 • 12:00 • Graffiti Museum • Modesto • Hosted By Jim & Donna

NEXT MONTH - SUNDAY - OCTOBER 12 - 12:00 - STRINGS - MODESTO - HOST: BOB & PATRICIA



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Next Tour

MODESTO AREA CLASSIC THUNDERBIRDS

Date: OCTOBER 2025 • Location: Chicken Ranch



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Facebook and Instagram
tbirdsofthecentralvalley



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Howdy - Fellow T-birders



We have been fortunate this year as far as high temperature's go, that is until this past week. Yep, the temps got into the 100's and stayed for about 3 days, which really is not bad considering that years past we have had several days in a row. It just means it is early to rise, get them outdoor chores done then head inside for the cool air.

Anyway, it would not matter because us Car Show enthusiasts still attend the shows. We had a great turnout for the Del Rio Car Show with 4

little birds and 4 brand X's and one of our very own received a trophy. Bob E. is new member from this year and has received his second trophy of the 2025 Car Show season. Coming up we have a Friday evening show on the 29th and then on the 13th of September we have the Escalon's Lions Autumn Cruise (this is one that is usually well attended). I am jumping ahead a little with this but at our clubs meeting in October (at the Graffiti Museum) all recipients of the coveted Graffiti USA trophy will have them on display. I cannot wait to see this because we have quite a few of these trophy's held by club members.

We are looking forward to our newest member Charles possibly being at our next meeting and maybe even join us for a Car Show soon. At the last meeting Katrina announced that the membership committee will start meeting again.

I brought up again that I would like people to start considering a position within the club, currently all members holding positions have done so for two or more years (some even holding multiple positions). Most positions are explained in our by-laws and questions can also be answered by members currently holding the position. In my opinion and I have held three and helped with another, none of them require a great deal of personal time. Try it for a year, you'll see.

That's it for now, I'll see you around the aviary.

Jim Ridenour

President

Modesto Area Classic Thunderbird Club



THE MOST SPECIAL DAYS SEPTEMBER



07 Janis
17 Elaine
23 Julie
23 Terry
27 Jack



21st
Paul & Ronna



PLAN AHEAD

SUNDAY

October 12, 2025 - 12:00

Strings - Modesto

Host: Bob E. & Patricia M.

*Thank
you!*

For Pictures

Donna, Jane Jim R., Ruben

Donations:

Jim & Donna for the fresh veggies

Keith & Elaine - Wine & Hat

Marlon & Terry - Plant

Get Ready For FRIENDS REVISITED

Destination Watsonville

Date May 16-18 2026

Sponsored By

Alan and Sandi Brown
of Monterey

Facebook and Instagram
tbirdsofthecentralvalley



Let's Have Fun!

Find Info & Updates!



VICE PRESIDENT

Ruben Tellez



Thank you to Jan for hosting the August meeting at Mi Casa in Turlock. There were six beautiful classic T-Birds, one Retro and some brand X's that braved the very hot day. In spite of the heat the meeting was well attended.

Looking to fill an officer/chair position for the 2026 year? All positions are open until November, when nominations will be closed and voted on. Available positions are as follows - President, Vice President, Secretary and for members of five years in good standing, Treasurer. The chair positions are - Sunshine, Newsletter, Publicity, Give Away and C.T.C.I. which is typically the past President (but not explicitly); two Board Members, previous officers, chosen and invited by the President. There is a description of each position in the club by-laws in the roster. If you need a copy of the club by-laws, contact Katrina. Any club member that would like to hold an officer or chair position in 2026 please contact Jim R., me, Elaine or Katrina.

Car shows coming up for September are the Escalon Lions Autumn Cruise, September 13th it's a nice car show to attend, several members have entered. Breakfast \$10 7-10:30, lunch \$15.00 11 - 1:30. Blast From The Past car show September 20th in Oakdale.

Classic Car Museum Sunday, October 5th, Graffiti Museum in Modesto, Birds on the Wharf car show in Santa Cruz, October 11th. Coming up October 18th, Rods and Roadsters car show at Del Webb in Manteca. Flyers and registration forms are available on the website and in the blue binder. An October overnight tour to Chicken Ranch, hosted by Jim and Donna, details TBA.

For members interested the **2025 VTCI/CTCI JOINT THUNDERBIRD CONVENTION** is being held September 9-13, 2025, in Grapevine, Texas.

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 14th - 12:00 at the Graffiti Museum in Modesto, hosted by Jim & Donna, ready for another potluck, sign up soon. Find details in The Next Big Thing below, Katrina and I are looking forward to seeing you all there.

**T-Birding
is Better Together
Ruben**



Meeting & Social August





Meeting & Social *August*





Givaway Winners!

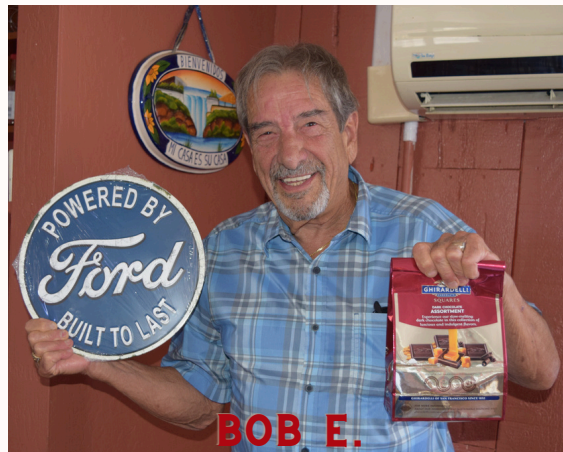
August



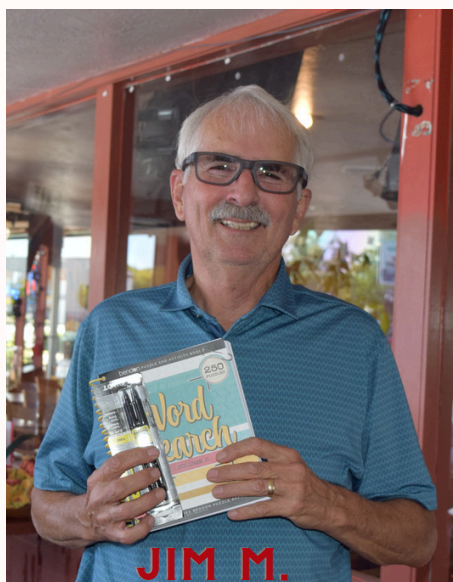
ELAINE & KEITH



BOB T.



BOB E.



JIM M.



JAN



CECILIA



Our QC

2024



nal one

5



Thank you Elaine for the pictures
and Jim and Donna for the fresh garden veggies





CAR SHOWS AUGUST



Not a lot of T-Birds this year but there was a Twenty!





CAR SHOWS AUGUST

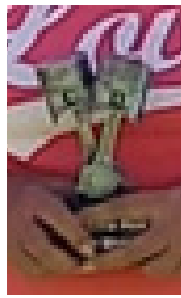




KICKS FOR KIDS

car show

Jane and Jan each received a trophy at the Kicks for Kids Car Show at Hope Church in Turlock on August 2nd. The proceeds provided the children with hair cuts, back packs and school supplies. The ladies had a fun day showing their cars for a good cause.



JANE JAN

DEL RIO

car show



Bob E. received a trophy sponsored by Black Diamond Detailing for his 1960 Impala
It's a beauty Bob!



THE NEXT BIG THING

Meeting & Social

Sunday September 14 - 12:00

The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum

610 N. Ninth Street - Modesto

Hosted by - Jim & Donna

Sign up or Cancel

Call/Text Donna - 209.402.1968



Bring the food item you signed up to bring or call Donna

Also bring your favorite T-Bird item to share at your table. Picture, Sign, Model Car...

Potluck
\$5.00 per person
We'll Provide
Plates, Cups,
Service Ware and
Beverage

Manteca - Stockton - Tracy
HWY 99 South - Exit on Briggsmore Ave. - Right to Carpenter - Left on Woodland
Turlock

Geer/Santa Fe - Left on Yosemite - Left on 'D' - Right on 9th - To Museum
Or Carpenter to Right on Woodland
Oakdale

Briggsmore Ave. - Left on College - Right on Coldwell



PRICES FROM THE PAST FROM REMINISCE MAGAZINE

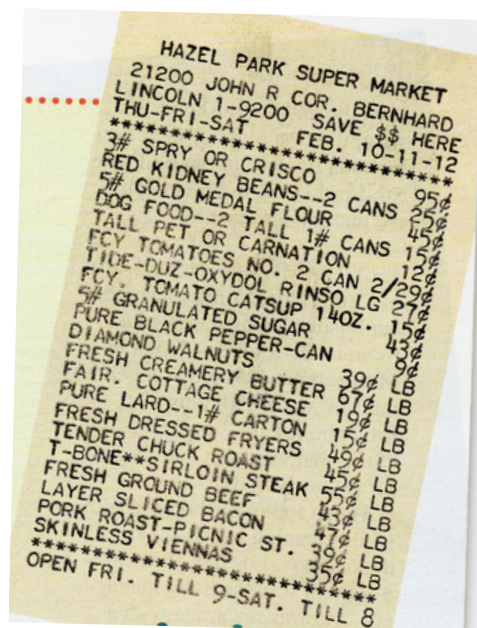
The postmark on this penny postcard from Hazel Park, Michigan, shows it was mailed February 9, 1949. The Hazel Park Super Market, like many neighborhood grocers, is closed now.

I see the price of chicken was higher than chuck roast and almost as high as T-one and sirloin steaks.

George DeCraemer - Warren, Michigan

The Price Was Right for the Times

By Hal Prey, Contributing Editor



If you're like me - with a long memory = you probably crin Pge whenever you pull \$5, \$10 or even \$20 from your wallet or purse to buy something and get back very little change. A dollar bill doesn't purchase much these days.

Well, a buck did buy a lot more in the 'good ole days.' Take the late 1940's after wartime rationing ended. A returning World War II veteran lucky enough to find an apartment paid somewhere around \$10.00 a week. That's what my wife, Jeanne and I paid. We lived there four years, and the landlady never raised our rent. An our weekly food bill was about the same amount.

Several Reminisce readers recalled similar bargains:

Whenever you traveled, you could stay at some of the best hotels in the country for \$7. Lois Collier of Vineland, New Jersey, says she and her husband, Jim, spent the first night of their honeymoon in 1946 in the Bellevue Stratfor Hotel in Philadelphia for that modest cost.

That same year, Helen Dalen of Cambridge, Minnesota and her husband, Roger, rented a room at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, "Would you believe our bill was \$6.50, plus 12 cents for a phone call?" she writes. "Still, that was a bit extravagant for us newlyweds."

Helen found the hotel receipt while cleaning out their safe deposit box. For fun, she sent a copy of it to the hotel manager - and was rewarded with a gift certificate for a return one-night stay.

Helen and Roger planned to use the certificate to celebrate their many years of marriage - and at a price that would be even cheaper than the first time.

It's a cinch Helen and Roger wouldn't drive their first car, a 1948 Plymouth special deluxe two-door sedan, to the hotel. "We paid a grand total of \$1,520.60 for it," says Helen.



The Price Was Right for the Times

By Hal Prey, Contributing Editor

“The actual price of the car was \$1,416,” she explains. “But we added a couple of ‘extras’ like \$47.50 for a larger heater and defroster, \$17 for a set of seat covers and \$10.45 for a set of wheel rings.”

Hospital Bills in the ‘40’s, unlike today, didn’t make you feel sicker than you already were. In 1945, a doctor removed Bob Dingle’s tonsils for \$50. “The hospital bill was even less - only \$20.70,” Bob writes from Kettering, Ohio, “and that included staying a night before the surgery and the night after.”

When Joan Rotenberger of Longwood, Florida, had her appendix removed in ‘49, it probably cost her less than it did her uncle. “I was a waitress in his restaurant in Chestertown, New York, when I had the attack,” she explains. “My uncle’s dining room was filled with customers. When they saw their waitress being put into an ambulance, they all got up and left, a lot of them without paying for their food.

“They no doubt thought I had polio since it was the era of the polio epidemic.”

When Joan left the hospital, her bill totaled \$89.75 for operating room, medicine and lab fees and an eight-day convalescence, after an insurance allowance of \$1.75.

Reminders of old-time prices can turn up in strange places, such as the used bedside table purchased by Jim Honaker’s daughter, who lives in Mechanicsville, Maryland.

“In the drawer, she found a 1943 handwritten bill incurred at a place called Wendland’s ‘Alte Klause’ for 13 dinners at \$3 apiece,” Jim writes from Arlington, Texas. “It also listed three ice creams at 15 cents each.”

In Pensacola, Florida, James Husser was shocked in 1998 when a friend sent him an ad from Colton, California, listing a home for sale at \$115,000. “This was my childhood home from 1938 to 1955. My parents paid \$2,000 for it back then!” he says.

Yep! A dollar bought a lot more just 70 years ago. On the other hand, though a buck was a lot harder to come by. I suppose it’s all relative - but it’s still fun to look at those old receipts and prices while murmuring, ‘Those were the days!’



The Beginning of Inflation

By Don Acker - Manzanita, Oregon

Starting Pay was 25 cents an hour when I went to work at the downtown Shell Oil Service Station in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1941.

I was an 18-year-old high school student, and after a few months experience, I asked for a 10-cent raise. I thought the owner was going to have a heart attack! it was too far along in the summer to get a replacement, though, so after a few days, I got the raise.

The ‘service’ in service station meant something back then. We wore our own clean white shirts and pants, with a clip-on black bow tie. When a car drove up, a minimum of two attendants came running.

One took the order and ran the gas pump. The other checked the oil, cleaned the front and rear glass and checked their pressure if requested.

The station also offered a wash for \$1. That included vacuuming, steam cleaning the engine and even painting the tires with black tire paint.

I could do four washes a day, plus other jobs like repairing tires. I thought I was worth 35 cents an hour. Don Aker - Manzanita, Oregon

Fashions of the ‘50’s

Roy Simpson of Fort Myers, Florida, had just left the Marine Corps and was working for the IRS when he filed his first income tax return. His tax for 1937 was a total of 32 cents! “They took my 32 cents as if it were a common occurrence,” Roy reports. “Although I’m now retired, 32 cents didn’t even pay the postage on my last return,” he adds.



The Reminisce Magazine articles are copied from the “Prices from the Past” from the editors of Reminisce.

Elaine thought that in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Thunderbird, it would be fun to revisit some things of the past.

We will be featuring a few more fun and interesting articles from Reminisce in the months to come.

Thank you, Elaine, for the articles to share. It’s a great idea. Enjoy!



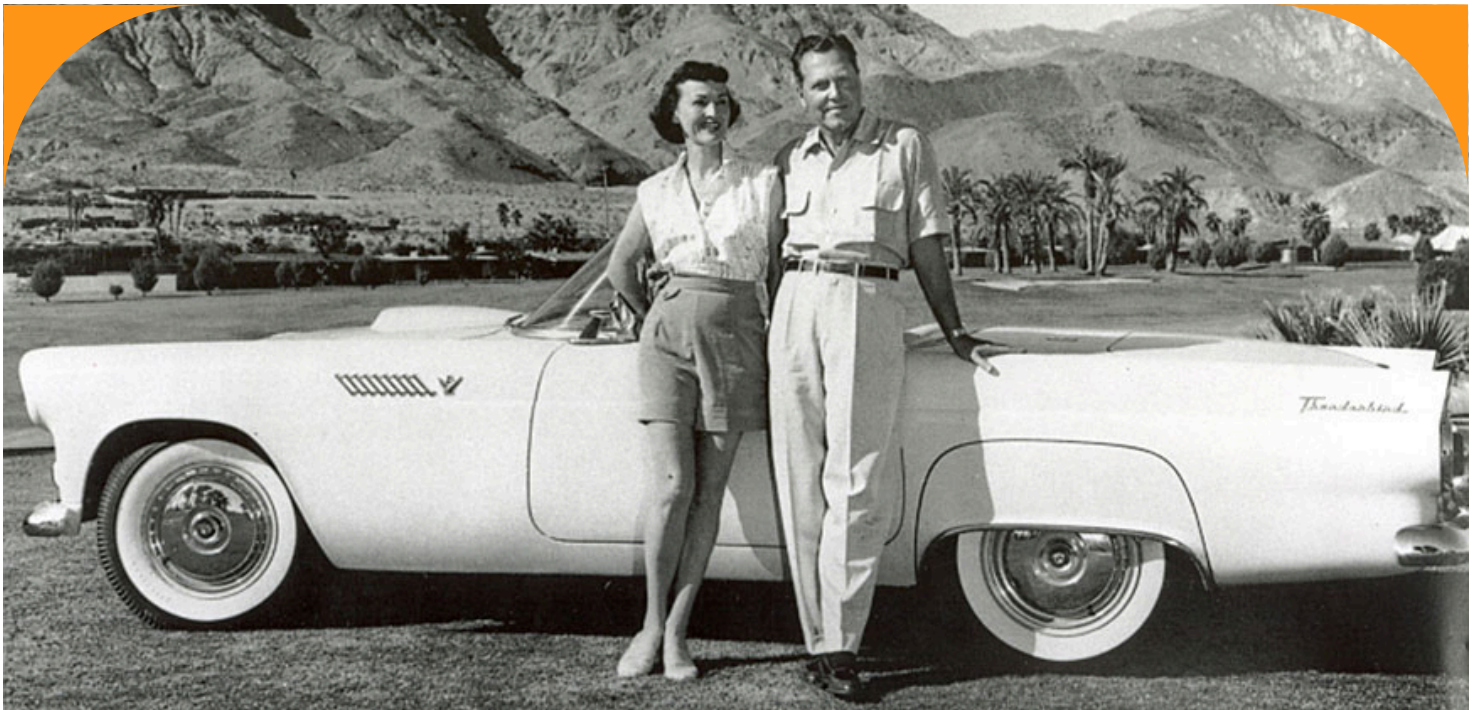
Sign of the Times This Sign hung in the beauty shop my grandfather built for me when I graduated from beauty school in 1929. It now hangs in my daughter’s shop as a conversation piece.

The sign was painted by my mother. She also kept a bucket of warm rainwater on hand for the “deluxe shampoo” that ensured soft, glossy hair and gave our customers the pampered feeling that’s part of any quality “beauty emporium.”



Club News

Hoods Up



In honor of the 70th anniversary of the 1955 Ford Thunderbird; the car that was designed to compete with Chevrolets Corvette; Jim R. shared some interesting tidbits of history. To come up with a model name Ford held a contest with the prize of a \$250.00 suit. Alden "Gib" Giberson a Ford stylist won the contest for a suit and trousers; that he ended up buying from Sak's Fifth Avenue. Inspired by native American legends from the southwest and a thunderbird on his coffee mug, he suggested the name Thunderbird and designed the Thunderbird logo. In 1951 'Thunderbird Heights' an exclusive neighborhood in Rancho Mirage in the Palm Desert area was being developed.



2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MACTC MEETINGS, TOURS AND CAR SHOWS				
DATE	HOST/HOSTS	PLACE	TIME	
MEETINGS				
January 12	Ruben & Katrina	H-B Saloon - Oakdale	12:00	
February 8	Jan	Grizzly Rock Café - Turlock	12:00	
March 9	Ruben & Katrina	Firenze - Oakdale	12:00	
April 13	Jim & Mona	Graffiti Museum - Modesto	12:00	
May 4/10	Mike & Julie	TBA	12:00	
June	DARK	DARK	N/A	
July 13	Bob & Marilyn	Odd Fellows - La Grange	10:00	
August 10	Jan	Mi Casa - Turlock	12:00	
September 14	Jim & Donna	Graffiti Museum - Modesto	12:00	
October 12	Bob E & Patricia	TBA	12:00	
November 9	Frank & Cecilia	Brookside Country Club Stkn	12:00	
December 7	Club Officers	Fruit Yard - Christmas Party	11:30	
CAR SHOWS	TOWN	SHOW	TIME	Flyer
August 15	Modesto	Vintage Faire Music & BBQ	5-8	Yes
August 16	Modesto	Truewood Car Show	10-1	Yes
August 16	Manteca	KSK 2nd Annual	7-3	Yes
August 22	Modesto	English Oaks	5-7	Yes
August 22	Oakdale	Classic Car Show	4-6	Yes
September 13	Escalon	Lions Club Autumn Cruise	8-4	Yes
September 20	Oakdale	Blast From The Past	9-3	Yes
October 05	Modesto	Graffiti Museum	9-3	Yes
October 11	Santa Cruz	T-Birds Santa Cruz Wharf	9-3	Yes
October 17	Modesto	Museum Mixer Fundraiser	4	Yes
October 18	Manteca	Wheels of Woodbridge	9-2	Yes
DATE	HOST	TOUR		
February 18/22	Jim & Donna	Almond Blossom Tour & Lunch	AM-Lunch	
October	Jim & Donna	Overnight - Chicken Ranch	TBA	
December	Keith & Elaine	Poinsettia & Lunch Tour	AM-Lunch	