

## T Bird News

North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds, Inc. Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 15 Issue 7: July, 2018

July 18, 2018

# Special Edition: VTCI International 2018, Tulsa, OK

Note from the Editor: Although there will not be a regular newsletter for the month of July, I felt the VTCI International Convention held in Tulsa, OK, from July 11-15 deserved some special attention so this is a special Convention Coverage Issue!

The convention was outstanding. The hotel was very nice, and everyone seemed to have a great time! The Board of Directors deserves kudos for putting together an excellent selection of activities.

North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds were well represented: Brad and Bonnie Kershaw and John Garfield put their Tbirds in the display category; Al and Barbara McDonald and C. Bruce Davis (from Abilene, along with a friend, Shane Lawrence, who drove Bruce's second Tbird) entered their thunderbirds for judging; and James and Cindy Oglesby and Ross and Joanie Scott came without their birds to enjoy the festivities. It was great to have such an outstanding turnout! Thanks to all who came! We hope you all enjoyed the weekend as much as we did.

We got to see many sights in Tulsa that I didn't even know existed! On Thursday, we visited an interesting Route 66 museum, had lunch in a variety of restaurants in the Brady Arts District, saw the "Center of the Universe," and visited the amazing and elegant Phillbrook Museum, a 1920's mansion-turned art museum.

On Friday, we ventured further from the hotel. We headed about 1.5 hours north of Tulsa to see the Derryl Starbird Hot Rod Hall of Fame. Mr. Starbird was even there, and several folks had the honor of meeting him. He is known for building radical hot rods, starting back in the early 1960's. Among the many interesting cars there were several of his own cars featuring his "signature" —the "bubble top". Other cars there were ones he has collected or are on loan from other builders, and they were all spectacular.

That afternoon, we traveled historic Route 66 back to Tulsa with a stop at Clanton's Restaurant for lunch (and we agree with Guy Fieti, host of Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives, that it was spectacular!). We also made stops at the totem pole park and other famous sites along the way.

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## Convention Coverage, continued

Of course, the judging is considered the main event for most people attending, and that happened on Saturday morning. There were about 50 cars on the show field. Several were in the display category, and were only voted on as "people's choice," meaning those cars are not judged by a team of judges. John Garfield put his '05 Retro in this group, as did Bonnie and Brad with their 1987 Turbo Coupe. Bonnie and Brad were tickled that their Turbo Coupe came home with the First Place trophy from the Display Category! It was a real honor. (And Brad said that while he missed having Dom Zanella along, if he had brought his '88 TC and put it in the display category, he would have gone home with that trophy!—so Dom, thanks again for selling us that car and for limiting our competition on this one event!)

C. Bruce Davis was a "newbie" on the show field. Bruce is a member who lives in Abilene so we don't get to see much of him. We have seen one of his cars before, however, as he showed his 1966 bird, which he purchased from our other members in Abilene, Wendell and Celina Fennell. Bruce got a Senior Participation Award on that car. He also brought a 1969 Thunderbird (with the help of a Shane Lawrence who has an auto shop in Abilene and who also owns a Turbo Coupe and several Super Coupes). They took home a Second Place Award on the 1969.

Al and Barbara McDonald entered their 1956 Fiesta Red Baby Bird into the Modified Class and earned a first class award! That fiery red bird really showed off well!

The closing banquet was very special since this convention commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the VTCI. One of the founding members, Don Brix, Jr., was there—his first time to attend an international convention! There were 7 past presidents in attendance as well. It was remarkable to see the living history of the club. Another past president, Larry Seyfarth (in whose name a very special award for best of show is given at each International convention) was there to present the award this year. And our good friends, Brian and Marilyn Carron from the South Texas chapter were the winners—what an honor to accept that award from Mr.Seyfarth himself!

All in all, the convention was so much fun! I hope that you all will consider attending an International Convention in the future! Stay tuned for details as plans are in the works for next year, but dates and a location haven't yet been announced. There are rumors that it may be somewhere in the East! So get your cars ready and be ready to go in 2019!



Above: 50 years of VTCI emblems

Right: NTVT Members at the 2018 Convention: Back: John Garfield, Ross & Joanie Scott, Bruce

Davis, and Shane Lawrence

Front: Al & Barb McDonald, Brad Kershaw, James Oglesby (Cindy not pictured), Bonnie Kershaw





# North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds, Inc.















## $North\,Texas\,Vintage\,Thunderbirds,\,Inc.$

# Sightseeing In and Around Tulsa















#### North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds, Inc.

#### July Meeting—Saturday, July 21



Don't forget the July meeting on Saturday, July 21st at 11:00 a.m. at Streetside Classics, 5400 Sandshell Dr, Suite 100Fort Worth, TX 76137. First, we will gather in the meeting room to enjoy sandwiches and drinks (supplied by the club); then we will have our meeting, and finally we'll spend as much time as we all want drooling over the gorgeous cars on the showroom floor, all in the comfort of air conditioning! Not a bad way to pass the time on a hot July day!

If you haven't sent your RSVP to bstepina@att.net, do it now so that he knows how much food to provide. The actual deadline for RSVP was yesterday, but he may be able to squeeze you in!

### August Meeting—Saturday, August 18

For our August meeting, we will take advantage of more air conditioning and enjoy the wonderful collection at the Sam Pack Automotive Museum in Farmer's Branch. Harmon Robinson is making the arrangements for us, so watch your email for details.

The museum is located at 2070 Diplomat Dr *Farmers Branch*, TX 75234. We will be there from 11-1pm and we will cater in a lunch.



## September Event—Saturday, Sept. 22

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Wheels for Wellness event in downtown Ft. Worth. You may receive emails from the event promoters, but we will register as a group, not individually. Watch your email *for info from the club or Tom Ossorio* on how to register for that event.



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The Thunderbird Registry http://www.tbirdregistry.com/

#### NTVT Events Calendar for 2018

July 21 Streetside Classics. 11 a.m.

Aug 15-18 CTCI Convention; Knoxville, TN

Aug 18 Sam Pack Museum Tour. 2070 Diplomacy building from 11-1pm. Harmon Robinson, host.

Sept 22 Wheels for Wellness, all day event, downtown Ft. Worth; Tom Ossorio, host. (Note: date change)

Oct 20 Regular NTVT Meeting in Grapevine. 11:30 a.m. Location and details TBA. Bob & Betty Pickard hosting.

Nov 10 Fall day-cruise Brad & Bonnie hosting.TBA around Burleson (Winery?)

Dec 2 Annual Christmas Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday at Humperdinks in Arlington.

Legend: Regular Meetings in black; Other Opportunities—not NTVT events in blue