



T Bird News

North Texas Vintage
Thunderbirds, Inc.
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 22 Issue 1: Jan 2025

Jan 31, 2025

Message from the Editor

This President's message has been hijacked by the newsletter editor. Well, actually, you just get me as a poor substitute since our president is still recovering from back surgery. Janet tells me she is doing well and hopes to be back for the February meeting.

I hope you will read this newsletter completely as there is a lot of information in it. With our yearly calendar being nailed down, we still need a volunteer or two to help with monthly meetings; and the board (and George Antochy) are knee-deep in the planning for the combined VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club International, our parent organization) and the CTCI (Classic Thunderbird Club International) Convention coming to Grapevine in September. Please read the articles included to see where you can help.

One thing coming up in May is Thunderbird Appreciation Day, on Sunday, May 18. Thunderbirds across the nation will be gathering to celebrate our love affairs with these marvelous cars. We do have a regular meeting on May 17, but perhaps we can get something going on May 18th as well. Marian Herbst has recommended we plan a joint outing with the Big D Little Bird club for May 18. The Big D is a part of the CTCI, and it would be fun to get acquainted with their people in advance of the convention. We will discuss that at the February meeting. Bring your ideas!

At the February meeting, we will also be discussing volunteer spots that still need to be filled for the combined Convention. We passed around the sign up sheet at the January meeting; but it will be available again at the February meeting. If you did not sign up in January, please consider signing up in February; if you can't come to the meeting, see the sign up sheet attached to this newsletter and let Brad Kershaw, John Garfield, Janet Young, or George Antochy know what slot you want!

Also, if you have pictures or stories you want included in the next newsletter, send them to me, please!

Thanks for reading!
Bonnie Kershaw, NTVT newsletter editor

Annual NTVT Dues Are Due—Do It, Please!

If you have already paid your 2025 NTVT dues, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please send your \$30 annual dues for our local NTVT club to our treasurer, Tom Ossorio, 1619 Caplin Dr., Arlington.

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ALPHABET SOUP: VTCI, CTCI, NTVT! WHO AM I?

Many of our newer members might be wondering about all these letters floating around recently. Let's talk some history! Our parent organization, The Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) formed in Tulsa, OK, over 57 years ago, where it was originally known as The Squarebird Society, focused on the 1958, 1959, and 1960 model years. Over the years, the club evolved into a world-wide organization which accepts all models of Thunderbirds (1955-2005) as members. VTCI promotes the preservation and enjoyment of all Thunderbirds and is made up of over 40 local chapter clubs. Those local clubs are clustered geographically into six US Regions: Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central, Northwest, and Southwest. Additionally, there are three Canadian Regions, Northeast, North Central, and Northwest. Our own North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds is one chapter of 6 included in the VTCI South Central Region.



The Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) has a similar long history having been in existence over 50 years. Currently, CTCI has over 5,000 members in 121 local chapters throughout the US and the world. Their organization is focused primarily on two-seater Thunderbirds, which for many years were limited to the "Early Birds" from 1955, 1956, & 1957.

Recently, their organization began accepting the Retro Birds from 2002-2005.

One thing both organizations have in common is a desire to help people understand and care for their classic Thunderbirds. One method of doing that has been through hosting International Conventions where Tbird owners can have their vehicles undergo Concours Judging, where the cars are judged according to original factory specifications. The VTCI also has other judging categories owners might choose such as touring, modified, driver, or display; in those, judging criteria are not as stringent as the Concours Judging. A complete discussion of the various judging categories for VTCI can be found on their website: <https://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/>



While the history of these automotive clubs might be interesting, the real impact of being a member can only be experienced in the present. Being a VTCI member offers extensive tech support and historical documentation through an excellent website, a Facebook page, and an opportunity to purchase merchandise through the "Country Store" on the VTCI website. Members also receive The Thunderbird Scoop, which provides color pictures and articles focusing on the owning, restoring, and maintaining these classic cars. But the VTCI membership applications says it best: The most important of all benefits is the opportunity to meet and build friendships with some of the most wonderful people "Unique in all the World"—our members.



Combined VTCI/CTCI Convention

If you are new to NTVT, or just have never attended a VTCI convention, you may be wondering what all the excitement is about regarding attending the combined CTCI/VTCI International Convention being held in Grapevine Sept 10-13. First and foremost, conventions are fun! The VTCI Convention Committee, under the direction of our South Central Regional Director, Brian Carron, is expecting over 100 cars entered on the judging field; and, that in itself, is something spectacular to see. In addition, you will meet the most interesting and sociable people from all over the US and Canada! You make new friends, and get reacquainted with old friends. Also, the tours and activities are outstanding. You can choose to tour AT&T Stadium, the George W Bush Library, and/or The Dallas Arboretum. There will also be a driving tour to the Sam Pack Automotive Museum, followed by lunch and a tour of the Amos Minter Restoration Facility. There is a possibility you will have the chance to take your Tbird up to the Texas Motor Speedway for a spin on the track! You can find all the details on the registration form on the VTCI website: <https://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/events.htm>. Registration forms must be downloaded and printed, filled out by hand, and sent in via mail. The cut-off for registration by mail is August 12, 2025.

As a side note, on that website, you will note that there are separate registration forms for members and non-members. If you are not currently a VTCI member, your registration fee will be slightly higher than members. Due to insurance regulations, all participants of the convention must be members of VTCI at the time of the convention. The fee you pay to register as a non-member is \$60, and that gets you membership in VTCI for 16 months beginning in September.

It is important to register for the convention and book your hotel rooms soon so that plans can be made for the tours, transportation, purchase of shirts, etc. We will be staying at the Embassy Suites North Grapevine Hotel, near the Bass Pro Shop. Call the hotel directly at 972-724-2600 to book your rooms; be sure to mention the "All Thunderbird Convention" and the group code "C90E" to make the reservation at the special rate. As of the latest information, 70 of the 85 rooms set aside for convention have been booked, so get your reservations made soon, or you might find yourself having to book an overflow hotel. You can decide if you want to spend all the nights at the convention or just one or two. I can tell you, however, that staying at the hotel is so much fun, and really makes the convention experience spectacular!

Each registration will come with a "goodie" bag with an assortment of items. If you own a business or know of a business that might like the opportunity to advertise by donating items for the bags, be sure to let Brian Carron or Brad Kershaw know as soon as possible. Businesses can also advertise in the Convention Booklet; these donations and advertisements help defray the costs of the convention.

A silent auction will be held at the convention. If you have new or desirable used items that might appeal to people, please consider donating them to the silent auction. You will



Combined VTCI/CTCI Convention

need to submit a form ahead of time to let the organizers know how many items to expect. You can find this form attached to the email delivering this newsletter, or ask for a printed form at the February meeting. You can specify an opening bid (minimum price) on the form, but be aware that if it doesn't sell for that price, you will need to pick the item up at the close of the auction. Mail printed submission forms to Vintage Thunderbird Club International, Inc. P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275. You can also email the submission form information directly to vtcicountrystore@gmail.com including a picture and/or a detailed description of the item. Silent auction items can be nearly anything!

One of the traditional aspects of a Convention is the Concours judging. You can choose to have your car judged in one of several categories, or you can choose to simply put it on display, where it is eligible for a People's Choice Award only. The Concours judging sheets are very detailed, and you can learn exactly what improvements you need to make to your car if you want it to become a #1 car. Brian has asked for volunteers who will be trained as judges, so that judging will be fair. Judging of the VTCI and CTCI cars will be conducted separately.

Volunteers really have the opportunity to make the convention fun for everyone. All kinds of volunteer positions are open, from serving as tour hosts to staffing the hospitality room, to running tally sheets for the judging. There is something for everyone to do. See the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet attached to the email delivering this newsletter.

Although the Convention begins on September 9th, with the registration desk open that day, there are no planned activities. On Wednesday, 9/10, the major activity is the AT&T tour in the afternoon. On Thursday, things begin ramping up starting with the Board of Directors' meeting and General Meeting of the Membership at 9 a.m. Judges Training sessions will follow. There are two choices offered Thursday afternoon: going to the TX Motor Speedway or touring the George W Bush Presidential Library in Dallas. Judging happens on Friday, with Judges and Owners meetings beginning at 8 a.m.; VTCI Concours Judging begins at 9:30. For those attendees who are not involved in the judging, there is a tour to the Dallas Arboretum at 10 a.m. That evening, there is a buffet dinner/cash bar with entertainment following. Saturday starts with the Swap Meet opening at 7 a.m., At 10 a.m., you can go on a free friv-ing tour to the Sam Pack Automotive Facility followed by lunch and a tour of the Amos Minter Restoration facility; or you can tour historic Grapevine on your own (free shuttles available). Saturday evening, the convention wraps up with the awards banquet.

How can you help make this convention an unforgettable event?

- Register and plan to attend the convention for as much of it as you can.
- Volunteer to serve in some way.
- Donate items for the goodie bags or the silent auction
- Bring items for the Saturday morning Swap Meet.



NTVT Calendar for 2025

NTVT

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & Other Activities for 2025

MONTH	Date	Area	SUGGESTED	Host-Volunteer
*January	18	SW	Sunny's, Ft Worth	John Garfield
*February	15	NE	Ford Garage, Plano	Bonnie Kershaw
*March	15	C	Real Texas Café, Euless	Mary Brewer
*April	12**	SW	Antonios, Burleson	Bonnie Kershaw
**date change due to Easter on April 19				
May	3	SE	Mabank Car Show	Dominic Zanella
*May	17	N	Willis/Brewer house	Mary Brewer
May	18		Possible T-Bird Appreciation Activity	Marian Herbst
*June	21	C	Spring Creek, Bedford	Janet Young
June	28	E	4 th of July Party, Farmersville	Walter & Delphiene Martin
*July	19	C	Logan's, N Richland Hills	Mary Brewer
July	20		Longview Trip/Car Show	Marian Herbst
August	8-10	E	Yellow Rose, Dallas Mkt Hall	George Antochy
*August	16	E	La Bella, Garland	Walter & Delphiene Martin
August	16-23		Boston/Holland Cruise	Janet Young
September	9- 13	N	VTCT/CTCI Int'l, Grapevine	Kershaw/Young
*Sept 20		W	Wheels For Wellness, FW	Tom Ossorio
*October	18	S	Eloy's Halloween Mtg	Eloy & Kitty Villafranca
November	1or 8		Day Trip-Destination TBA	James Oglesby
*Daylight savings time ends				
*November	15	N	TBD	Mitch Womble
December	7	C	Saltgrass-Bedford	Betsy Haber
January	17	W	Streetside Classics	TBD

Normal monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. All dates subject to change.



Introducing Mitch and Pamela Womble!—Welcome!

Mitch and Pamela Womble joined NTVT a couple of months ago, and we met them for the first time at the January meeting where I asked Mitch to submit a short piece introducing themselves. Thanks, Mitch for sending in the pictures and the article. I know you will enjoy this crazy crew as much as Brad and I do.

“We met at a Christmas Party in 1998, and married in September, 2002. So, my T-Bird and my marriage coincide with each other. I am a native Dallasite, while Pamela was born and raised in New Jersey, but has been a Texan since 1977. We have lived in East Dallas since July, 2002. I have been retired since 2009, and Pamela since 2020.

I have always wanted a 1955, ‘56, or ‘57 T-Bird, but never could afford one, but now that I’m retired, and now had the money to buy one of the Retro-Birds, I finally decided to treat myself to this one for my combo birthday/Christmas present last October.

We are looking forward to participating in as many activities and events as we can with our new friends at North Texas Vintage Thunderbird Club.





March Elections & Officer Changes

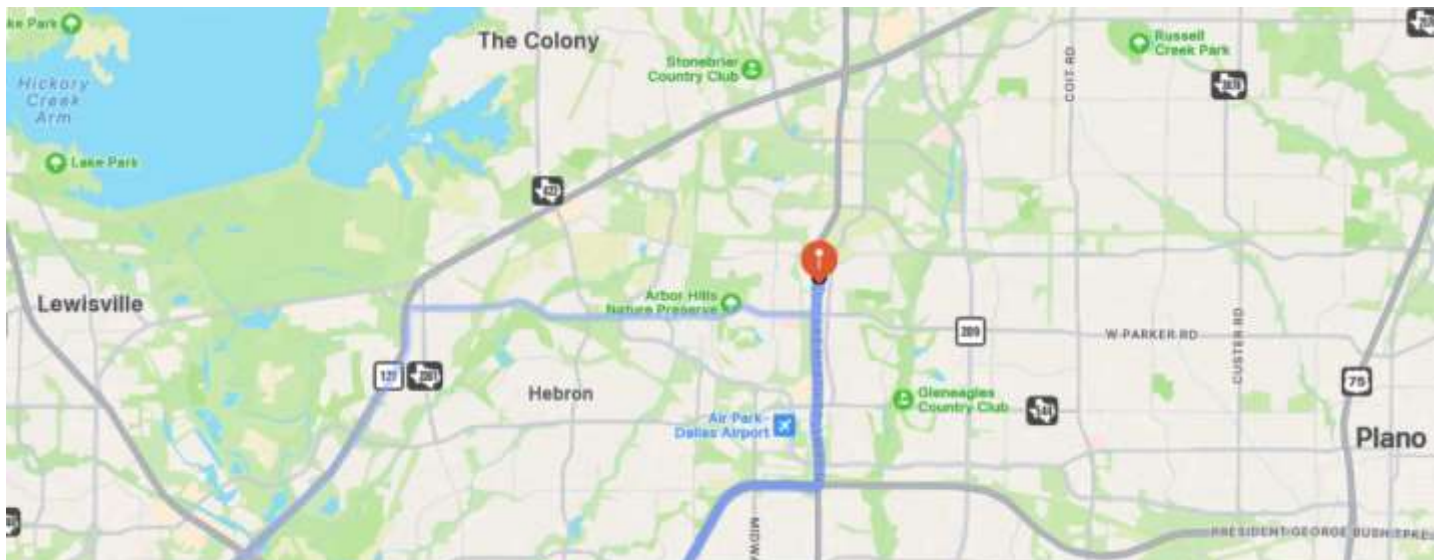
Elections for our 2025 slate of officers will be held at the March meeting at the Real Texas Café in Euless. Watch your email around March 7th, for directions and a chance to RSVP.

According to our revised bylaws, the NTVT Board is made up of: the President, who presides over meetings and handles any communication/business with our parent club, VTCl; the 1st VP (assists the President and assumes his or her duties in the absence of the President, assists monthly hosts/troubleshoots events, ensures there are door prizes at each meeting); the 2nd VP (receives new membership applications, and helps new members integrate into the club); the Secretary who takes minutes at monthly meetings; the Treasurer; the Newsletter Editor; and the Past President. Our club uses the rotating leadership model, whereby each year we elect one officer, the 2nd VP over membership). Each year, the person holding the office of 2nd VP advances to 1st VP; and the 1st VP advances to President. This allows individuals to grow through participating in leadership for three years, something that gives our club consistency while allowing for “new blood” on the Board. The remaining offices (Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor) are filled upon resignation of the person holding the office or someone wants to run against the incumbent; there is no term limit for those offices.

It is a privilege to serve as an officer. If you would like to nominate yourself, PLEASE contact any of the current officers to get your name on the ballot. This year, we have had one nomination so far for 1st VP; to date, nobody has nominated themselves for 2nd VP. If you are interested in either of these positions, the deadline for getting your name on the ballot is March 1st.

February Meeting—2/15/25

Bring your bird and show it off at Ford's Garage, 3904 North Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX 75093-7863. We will have lunch and begin the meeting at 11:30. We will have the room until 1:00 p.m., so don't be late! This is a fun place, so don't miss this one. It's just north of Parker Rd on the North Dallas Parkway.





Indoor Car Show in Longview, July 19

Last year, Marian Herbst and Rick Viera attended a terrific indoor car show that benefits Alzheimer's research, called "A Drive to Remember."

They had so much fun that they are organizing an two-night trip for anyone who would like to join them there this year. Unfortunately, that coincides with the regular July NTVT meeting, so members will have to make a choice as to which event

works for them. Marian encourages *everyone who wants to make the trip to contact her soon and also reserve your hotel rooms as early as possible*. The hotel where Marian and Rick will be staying is Staybridge Suites, at 3409 4th St Longview Tx 75605. The rooms have a small kitchen area in them with a large refrigerator. They also provide a nice full breakfast bar. Marian and Rick encourage everyone to book their rooms now as many out-of-town people attend this event. Call the hotel directly at [903\) 212-3800](tel:9032123800) to book your rooms.



The convoy to Longview on Friday, July 18th, will start by meeting up at 8 am at Chick-Fil-A at 3970 S. Carrier Pkwy in Grand Prairie, Tx 75052 (exit 456 on I20), and everyone will head to Buc-ee's at 506 I-20 (exit 498) in Terrell for a short stop; then the group will proceed all the way out Hwy 80 to Longview, with a stop or two in small towns along the way to accommodate the older birds and pit stops for the ladies. You can meet up with the group at Chick-Fil-A or at Buc-ee's, depending on your location. Don't forget to call Marian (817-705-5925) so she knows you are coming. Marian would like one car to "bring up the rear" to keep the convoy all together.

Dinner on Saturday night will be at Roma's Italian Café in downtown Longview, with parking reserved right in front for a great photo opportunity!

The group will reverse the route for the trip home on Sunday, July 20.

Send in Those Pictures!

We need pictures of your Thunderbirds for our newsletter and for our Website. Our website is the best means we have for attracting the interest of Thunderbird owners and enthusiasts. But a website that doesn't have freshly updated material will falter. We are grateful that Mark Ibbotson is willing to continue to be our webmaster even though he and Anita have moved to Albuquerque, NM. But he can't do much without pics! Send them to bradandbonnie@yahoo.com and copy m_ibbot@sbcglobal.net. The Members Area is also helpful for members to get information on upcoming meetings, etc. If you need the password, email Bonnie at bradandbonnie@yahoo.com.





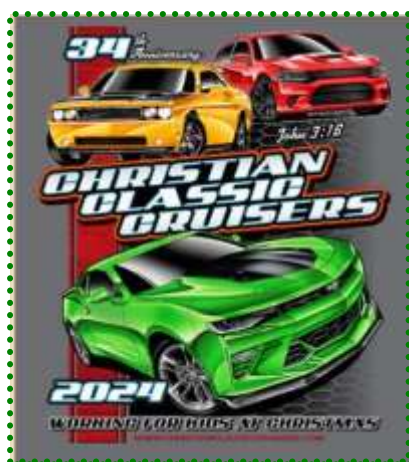
Upcoming Events

Watch your email inbox for information on upcoming events, car shows, etc. that you may want to attend in addition to our regular monthly meetings. If you know of car shows or other events, please send the info to Bonnie at bradandbonnie@yahoo.com so they can be included in the newsletters.

Our upcoming 2025 club events are listed on the NTVT Calendar on page 3; but you may want to get a group going to another event. Use the NTVT Contact list attached to this newsletter or email the entire club (just grab an NTVT email and use Reply All, then delete all the old information and type your own message—be sure to change the subject line!).

If you would like to volunteer to be the Car Show Locator for the club, please do so—just let me know you will be sending Car Show info to me on a regular basis so I can send out emails or include the details in the

next news-



Monthly Shows at 9200 Mid-Cities Blvd, North Richland Hills, 76180. 5-9 pm; register at gate until 7:15 pm. March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21. Sept 20, Oct 4.



Full Registration blank is attached to the email delivering this newsletter. Please print and send in by the deadline.

Lone Star Street Rod Association—State Run.
Hewlett Park, 650 E Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048 , Granbury
Friday-Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14-15
Friday, 11:00a.m. - 6:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 07:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 08:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Church Service at 10:00 a.m.
Awards at 11:00 a.m.
*******Open Entries through 1972 *******



Saturday, April 5, 2025
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
201 N Front St
Naples, TX 75568



January 18th Meeting Minutes, submitted by Brad Kershaw

Twenty-nine members attended the meeting at Sunny's Cafe in south Fort Worth.

John Garfield opened the meeting with a welcome to all the regular members and recognized new members Mitch and Pamela Womble. They have a red 2002 Tbird.

Glenn Willis passed on thanks from the Union Gospel Mission for our Christmas donation. They said that it was one of the largest donation they have received to date.

John noted that we will be electing officers in March for the upcoming year. If you would like to nominate yourself for 1st Vice President, in charge of events, or want more information on the duties please notify Janet Young or John Garfield, or Walter Martin.

Bonnie presented the proposed 2025 calendar developed by the NTVT Board. The February meeting was proposed for the Ford Garage in Plano. We still need a sponsor, someone to contact the restaurant for reservations. Note the change to the second Saturday in April due to a conflict with Easter. Dom Zanella volunteered to be the point of contact for the annual Mabank car show many of us attend. James Oglesby will investigate a day trip to the Sherman/Denison area in early November. Mitch Womble will follow up on a place for the November meeting since Thanksgiving is later in the month this year. Look for the calendar in the newsletter.

Brad Kershaw reported on planning for the 2025 International Convention in September. Brad passed around a sign-up sheet developed by Brian Carron, the VTCI South Central Regional Director. Brad emphasized that the NTVT needs a strong showing of support since it is in our local area and we were due to host a regional convention.

Please call and reserve your room at the hotel ASAP. At last report the original allotment of rooms was 85% booked. If Brian knows soon, he may be able to get additional rooms, if not, you will have to make reservations at a nearby overflow hotel. Marian noted that staying at the hotel was the best way to interact with all the people and take advantage of all the events planned.

We also need to make our reservations for the convention soon so final arrangements can be made for excursion planning. There are two forms for registration: member and non-member of the VTCI. Primarily for insurance purposes the form will require you to become a member of the international organization VTCI. You will have to be registered for the convention to place your car on the show field, even in the display category.

Throughout the year there are many car shows going on in the area. If you have favorites, please pass this info on to Bonnie so she can include the additional opportunities in the newsletter.

In a show of hands, the majority favored keeping door prizes at the meetings. We will continue this practice, and a few said that they have items to donate for this.

Dom won the 50/50.

Submitted by Brad Kershaw, NTVT Secretary



January Meeting and Pictures



The January meeting was held at Sunny's Café in Southeast Ft Worth, where a great crowd gathered to enjoy some good "diner-type" food and great conversation.

John Garfield presided over the meeting as Jan was recuperating. The board presented the 2025 Calendar of events and discussed the upcoming September 10-14 combined Convention of VTCI and CTCI. It should be a super event; and we need you to sign up to help with the many volunteer positions!





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PLEASE

Visit These Websites:

NTVT:

www.ntvtbird.org

Or on Facebook at:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](https://www.facebook.com/NTVTThunderbirds)

VTCL, our Parent :

www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

Or on Facebook at:

Vintage Thunderbird Club Int'l

The Thunderbird Registry

<http://www.tbirdregistry.com/>

January, Continued



During the meeting, John Garfield invited everyone who was interested to visit his Model Railroading Club (which was located nearby) following the conclusion of the NTVT meeting. About 8 or 10 members took him up on the offer, and we had an enjoyable time looking at the train displays there. Thanks, John!

