



T Bird News

North Texas Vintage
Thunderbirds, Inc.
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 14 Issue 3: Mar, 2017

March. 27, 2017

From the President

First I want to thank John Congleton, John Garfield, Jim Young, Tom Ossorio, and George Boley for all they have done to make this club one of the best in the nation.

The officers of the club took input from the members and assembled a variety of activities for the coming year. This is no small task given how geographically diverse we are. If there are other activities in your local area that you are supporting, please let the club know as others may want to join you. As I write this several members are on a retro bird cruise to Arkansas. The month of May will also have several extra shows in addition to our regular meeting in Arlington's Randol Mill park.

I am looking forward to our spring trip to the hill country. This should be a great time to stop and smell the flowers. I hope to do more trips in the future even if they may only be for a day.

Last I want to thank Bonnie for the newsletter and recent pictorial directory. She has been making all the presidents back to Doug Neal look much smarter than we are. This feat was confirmed by several 'Gold' awards from the national organization.

Brad Kershaw

Show Your T-Bird Pride!

Displaying our club logo on your clothing or on your car is a simple way to let others know about our group. Every time you attend a car event, especially **one "out in the public eye" like a car cruise or car show, you would be amazed** at the comments you will get if you use a magnetic sign for your car door or wear the club logo on a hat or shirt.

In the past we have had shirts available and may do another shirt order in the future. In the meantime, you can buy logo patches that can be sewn on to cloth caps, shirts, or jackets. These are \$3.50 and are available from Brad or Bonnie Kershaw. The magnetic logos for the cars are available from Dave Egan or George Boley. You can also visit the website of our parent organization, The Vintage Thunderbird Club International to see items for sale in their Country Store.

http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net/country_store_apparel.htm

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T Bird News: Public & Legal Notices

How does the saying go? “Speak now, or forever hold your peace!”

Oops. Too late... we never gave you a chance. Several of you thought it already happened, some just plain gave up asking, and we do thank you for that! After 11 years (not counting a short mid-term break), Ralph & I **finally tied the knot. Said “I do”. Got hitched.** United in marriage on March 25. The ceremony was blessed by my recently ordained brother-in-law Pat Harrington, witnessed by our daughters Colleen, Hope & Hannah, as well as Ellen & Paula (many Birders **remember them as “the sisters”** who assisted at several TBird conventions). Niece Amanda with her S.O. Daniel, nephew Kyle (Best Man) and **Colleen’s fiancée David rounded out** the small family group on our back patio.

After working with Colleen the last few months on planning her wedding for this summer, I decided I could not have a big wedding with lots of people, fancy clothes, food and music. I watch the rollercoaster **she’s being going through with ven-**

ues, contracts, decorations, etc. It would have completely stressed me out to do the same for myself. So after that decision, Ralph got really excited because he wanted to wear pajamas to his wedding. But I made **him put on a suit because we had a professional photographer. Well, mostly because I didn’t want to be** pressured into shopping for new pajamas to match his for the photo shoot. Putting him in a suit was much easier. Ralph did promise me beautiful weather for our outdoor wedding, and he certainly delivered!

I figured this would be the best way to tell my Thunderbird family. Not everyone makes the meetings, **but they all see the newsletter. Several of you would agree on the Best Man’s toast: “It’s about damn time!”**

Next time you see Ralph, ask to see his ring!

Betsy Haber

Editor’s Note: Congrats to Betsy and Ralph! Betsy had told me a couple of weeks ago that she would have an article for me by press time, and when I got the email a few days ago, I thought, “oh, good!” thinking it would be a tech article or something! I flagged it so I could find it easily when I was ready, but I NEVER EVEN OPENED it until yesterday!





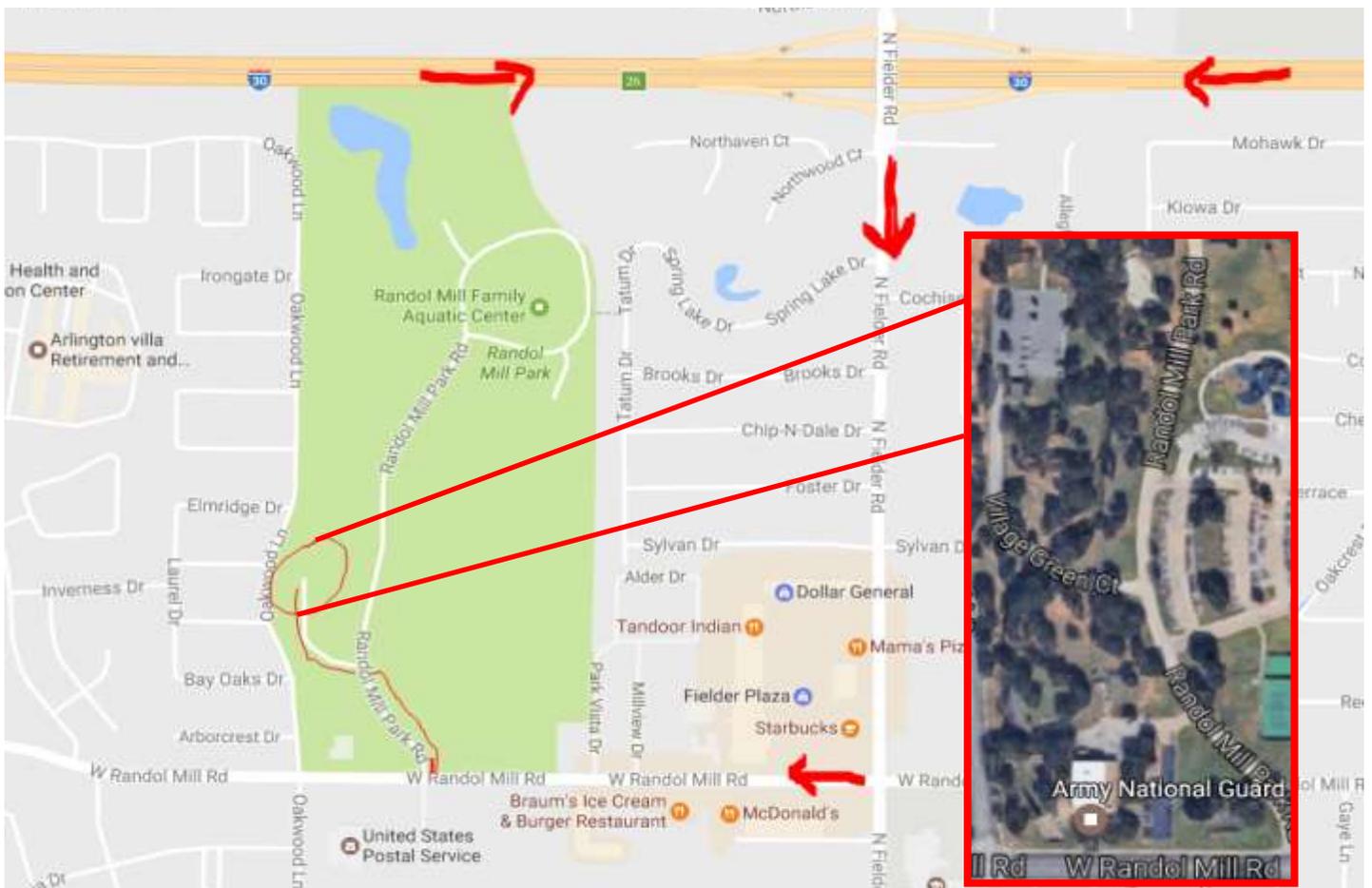
Pack Your Picnic Basket for May 20!

In May, in addition to the two optional Car Show Opportunities on Saturday, May 6 (see pages 5 & 6) we will have a regular meeting on Saturday, May 20, at 11:00 a.m. (a little earlier than normal time as our rental agreement for the park pavilion extends to 2 p.m. and we want to make sure we have enough time!). The location will be Randol Mill Park in North Arlington.

Directions from Interstate 30: Take the Fielder Exit and go south to Randol Mill Rd. & go west and turn right in to the park entrance, on Randol Mill Park Rd.; then take the second left on Village Green Ct. This ends at a parking area adjacent to the Pavilion. If you get to the ball fields or the family aquatic area, you went too far!

We are not allowed to “block off” parking, so try to arrive early to secure your parking spot. Bring picnic food, and enjoy the outdoors with us! Watch your email for your opportunity to RSVP and let us know what you plan to bring.

We are asking the Classic Chassis Car Club to join us, so come expecting to see some beautiful birds and some other cool classics!





Rolling, Rolling, Rolling—Retros on the Road!

Spring is the time of year to get our birds out of the garages and on to the roads. Several NTVT Retro owners have shared their Road Adventures with us this last month.

On March 16th, Ben and Janice King, in their '02 Retro, joined other relatives on to visit a tragic but historic site where his mother was thankfully spared nearly 80 years earlier.

On March 17, survivors of the New London school explosion marked the 80th anniversary of an event that shook the country, the shock waves of which even reached Adolph Hitler, who sent his condolences. The small but oil-rich community, deep in the East Texas woods near Kilgore, was proud of a new, state-of-the-art school. However, a decision to save energy costs, by tapping into an on-site gas well, proved its demise.

On March 17, 1937, natural gas filled its basement. When a switch in the shop was thrown, the school exploded, killing 295 children and 14 teachers.

Ben's mother, a kindergarten teacher at the time, was one of the survivors of the blast. She never spoke of the explosion, though, until Texas Monthly reached out 15 years ago. Because of the investigation following the explosion, it became law to infuse natural gas with an ominous odor to avoid such disasters in the future.

Today there is a museum and commemorative cenotaph, shown in the picture. Thanks, Ben, for the write-up and photo. By the way, if you are interested in learning more about this historic site, there is a wealth of information available online.

Just Google “New London Gas Explosion.”



Ben and Janice King at the New London Memorial site.

With a less than auspicious start, another group of NTVT Retros headed off to Arkansas last week. John



Garfield sent us the following account, and Dave Egan sent along some great photos to document their trip. We are glad the obstacles were overcome, and eventually all the retros joined a larger contingent of T-Birds in Arkansas.

David Eagan, George Boley, the Lowenburgs and the Garfields met at IHOP in McKinney to caravan to a Retrobird meet in Arkansas. After lunch, **George mentioned that my (John's) tire looked low.** It wasn't only low but flat (new tire). I jack up the car after pulling out the luggage and the spare, get the flat off and the car rolls off the jack. Now the jack will not fit under the car again - call AAA. It might take an hour.

(Continued on page 5)



Retro Road Trips, Continued

OK, now what? Tires on these cars will not fit in the trunk. Each of us have our luggage in the trunk anyway (except mine which was removed to get the spare out). The only way to transport a tire is the passenger seat of these two-seat cars.

Ah, George has a luggage rack but is skeptical because he has been told they will not hold much and will damage the paint. But he agrees to mount the tire there. Rope? No one has anything. Ah, a mattress store next door. They have some rope they give us so we tie the tire onto the luggage rack and go to the tire store.



Meantime, AAA shows up, puts the spare on and leaves. George and I get back with the fixed tire, I rejack the car up and put the tire back on. Repack the car, and off we go two hours later.

Arkansas or Bust!

Thunderbird Nest arranged a weekend in Walmart Country for Retro-bird owners. This is the first trip we have taken with this group and we really enjoyed ourselves. The group has no fees and supports retro bird owners only. Those who are members of the club and have retro birds may want to check this out at thunderbirdnest.com. It is a great group that arranges roughly quarterly trips, mostly in central and southern US. On this trip we had people from FL., Georgia, Miss., Alabama and up into Illinois. About 35 joined us on this trip. Our DFW group from NTVT featured Dave Eagan (our leader), Jim and Regina Lowenberg (old hands) and new to the group, George Boley and John and Ginny Garfield. We rounded out the Texas group with Dave and Carol Richards from Houston.

We started our trip by meeting at IHOP in McKinney where I had a flat (see previous article) that **delayed us two hours to get it fixed. If you don't know, retro bird tires do not fit in the trunk so when traveling with a passenger there is no way to put on the spare and carry a passenger as the side seat is the only place you can put the flat.** Thank goodness George has a luggage rack we could put the tire on and get the leak fixed. So much for a great start.

We finally made it up into east Oklahoma and into the mountains. I never made it here before though I had heard about them. I was surprised at how high and rugged they are. They remind me of the Catskills in NY. We had a very nice drive here through the flowering dogwood and wild plumbs of Wind-ing Stair Mountain Road to our dinner spot. A nice mountain retreat. Then down into Mina, Ark. for the night.





Arkansas Trip, Continued

Next day we headed north and another mountain drive to Fort Smith area but staying east on country roads until getting to Bentonville area. A great drive and many thanks to Dave for setting this up.

Arriving Thursday afternoon we had a great dinner with the group at Crabby's across the street from the hotel. Friday, we visited the Peel Mansion and Gardens and then onto the Alice Walton museum, Crystal Bridges Museum. A place I always wanted to go in my travels to friends just north over the hill in Buena Vista (a very nice retirement community just south of the Missouri State line).

Saturday turned real cool and rainy but we still enjoyed our trip to Pea Ridge National Military Park, a civil war battle ground just east of where we stayed. We then joined a smaller group that went onto Eureka Springs (but too cold and rainy to shop so stayed at the Crescent Hotel for lunch then returned). Others went to War Eagle Mill and spelunking at War Eagle Cavern. We all had a great time.

The trip was finished Saturday night with a good dinner and prizes at

Fred's Hickory Inn.

This was a great experience for us newcomers, we found everyone very friendly. We also learned a new ice breaker the club should try some time. All in all, I highly recommend this group and encourage any retro owners to look into future upcoming **trips. Remember, thunderbirdnest.com, and it's free. Future trips are New Orleans (nearly sold out) and another up into Illinois and Wisconsin.** We will keep an eye on this and maybe plan another trip next year.



Car Shows and Cruises

There are two car shows coming up in early April: Saturday, April 1, will see the 6th Annual Wild Horse Prairie Car Show in Haskell, TX. It will be on the courthouse square; registration will be from 8-11 a.m. at the Gazebo. A Poker Run Cruise will be featured at 2 p.m. and the awards presentation at 3 p.m. Call Ben McGee, coordinator for information: 940-864-4555. The following weekend will be the Dreaming the Cure Benefit Car Show in Ft Worth **behind the T&P Station at 316 W. Vickery Blvd. It will benefit the Cook Children's Pediatric Brain Tumor Research.**

Regular Cruise-ins occur every Friday night, year round at the Albertsons at Hwy 287 and Sublett Rd in Arlington. Attendance runs from 100-150 cars; and you can come and go as you please. Call Cris Lofgren at 682-429-1010 for **info. You can also find Big State "Cars & Shakes" Classic Car Cruise is happening the first Saturday of each month from 6-9 pm. At the Big State Fountain Grill, 100 East Irving Blvd. Call Cris Lofgren (number above) for info. Beginning May 6th, there will be Cruise night on the Square in Decatur, TX on the first Saturday of each month (excluding July and August). See their website at <http://www.decaturmmainstreet.com/> for more info. Thursday nights from 6-8 p.m. you'll find Pops Burger Stand in Waxahachie hosting a cruise in. They are located at 107 S. Monroe St. in Waxahachie. From 8-10 a.m. every Sunday morning, you can gather at Good Day Café, 6204 Cooper Street in Arlington, or at Busy B's Bakery, 3701 Southwest Blvd Traffic Circle in Ft Worth starting at 6 a.m. until you've had enough coffee and sticky buns or until it's time for church! Thanks to member Scott Sims for this information.**



May 6 Car Show Choices #1: Cedar Creek Lake

You can print out this page and use the form below to register for the Cedar Creek Lake Car Show. Be sure to put NTVT in the Club blank near the bottom so we can all be together. Remember to register early as the first 65 cars registered will be under the pavilion cover!

Cedar Creek Lake Car Show & Kiwanis Krawfish Boil May 6, 2017



Proudly sponsored by the
Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
& Kiwanis Club of Cedar Creek Lake
www.CedarCreekLakeCarShow.net

Mabank Pavilion

(Just off Bus. 175, behind the Rodeo Arena)

\$20 (All pre-registered exhibitors get a t-shirt)

First 65 Pre-registered Entries will be
under roof of the pavilion

Registration Starts at 8:00 AM –

Judging starts at 11:00 AM,

Awards start at 3:00 PM.

Show is over after Awards Presentation.

Crawfish from 10:30

till all is sold!

Hot dogs, Hamburgers,

other Concession items also available.

903.887.3152

info@CedarCreekLakeChamber.com

Headquarters Hotel - COMFORT SUITES HOTEL
Corner of Hwys. 198 & 175 Mabank 903.887.0680 for Reservations
For a complete list of chamber member hotels serving the area, visit
www.CedarCreekLakeChamber.com
Click on Member List

Bill Hanstrom
214.683.2811
bhanstrom@embarqmail.com

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY – THANK YOU.

Make Checks payable to: CCLACC PO Box 581 Mabank TX 75147

Call 903.887.3152 to pay with Visa/MC/Discover 903.887.3695 (fax)

NAME: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

ENTRY:

Year: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____

CLUB (If applicable):

In consideration of the acceptance of the right to participate, entrants, by right of execution of this form, release & discharge, CCLACC, the City of Mabank and CC Kiwanis Club and all involved with them from all known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgments, and claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by an entrant to his person or property.

Signature _____ Date: _____



May 6 Car Show Choice #2: Sam Pack, 27th Dallas Spring Nationals Classic Car Show

You can print out this page and use the form below to register for the 27th Dallas Spring Nationals Classic Car Show (often referred to as the "Sam Pack" show). You can learn more at ntmc.org.

THE NORTH TEXAS MUSTANG CLUB

For additional information please call:

Mark Powell @ 214.392.5156

Bill Wages @ 214.415.0972

David Keen @ 214.532.7031

RAIN DATE: May 13, 2015

Free Admission for All Spectators!!

Early Registration Form

Mail entry form and \$25.00 check made out to Five Star Ford of Carrollton to the following address:

SPF % Mark Powell
235 S. Houston School Road
Lancaster, Texas 75146

Name: _____ Phone Numbers: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year of Entry: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Color: _____ Engine: _____ Body Style: _____

Club Affiliation(s): _____

Saturday May 6, 2017

8am – 4pm

2070 Diplomat, Farmers Branch, Texas 75234

Registration Time: 8:00 to 12:00 PM

Registration Fee: \$25.00

Show Time: 12:00 to 3:00 PM

Awards: 3:00 PM

- AER will donate an engine to one show entrant.
- Sam Pack will have his new Museum open to the public for a \$5.00 donation. The proceeds going to Holy Angels.
- We will have Gordy with his expanded menu. He will be open for business from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm
- The Car Pro Jerry Reynolds will broadcast both his local and national shows live from the museum.
- Major Class Changes will make for a fun event.
- Show Site is being completely redesigned.



These were the beautiful trophies awarded last year at the show. There are many categories, and the event is a lot of fun. There are food trucks and the museum/Sam Pack private collection is something everyone should see!

There will be a map in the March newsletter.



Spring Trip in the Hill Country—April 7-9

About 23 or 24 NTVT members hope to see lots of bluebonnets like these as we travel to Kerrville next month for a Spring Tour through the Hill Country.

The group will gather in the Albertsons parking lot () at 9:15, leaving there at 9:30. We plan to have lunch in Lampassas (at **Alfredo's Mexican Restaurant—2201 US Hwy 281**) at 11:45.

We will visit the LBJ Ranch between 2:30 and 4:30; some of us may want to squeeze in a visit at the adjacent Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm while we are there. Others may want to schedule a stop at the Wildseed Wildflower Farms (100 Legacy Dr.) on the way to our hotel, the YO Ranch in Kerrville. Whatever stops you plan to make, just be sure to be at the hotel in time for the buffet at 7:00 p.m.

If you registered for this trip, you should have gotten full details in an email. If you still want to join, there were a couple of rooms available as of March 22. Give the YO Ranch a call at (830) 203-6704. Then let Bonnie know so she can send you the complete information, too.



Streetside Classics

Our June meeting will be in the meeting room at Streetside Classics, 5400 Sandshell Dr., Ste 100, Ft Worth, TX 76137. It will be great to enjoy the air conditioning as we look over the beautiful classic cars on sale in their showroom before or after our regular lunchtime meeting.

In addition, we just found out about a Spring Classics Car Show hosted by Christian Classic Cruisers in the parking lot behind Streetside Classics. So if you don't already have plans to attend one of the other shows on May 6th (in Cedar Creek or at Sam Packs in Carrollton), you may want to head up to Streetside and join the fun there. There will be raffle prizes, Sassy's Food Truck, vendor tents, and trophies for the top 25 and 5 Special Classes. It all happens May 6, 2017. Registration begins at 10 and ends at 11 a.m. The car show runs until 2 p.m. For more information, contact Denise at 817-764-8000 or email Denise.Broadway@StreetsideClassics.com. Or check out the Streetside Classics website: www.StreetsideClassics.com

Streetside CLASSICS
DFW • Atlanta • Charlotte • Nashville • Tampa

5400 Sandshell Dr., Ste 100
Ft. Worth, TX 76137

Spring Classics Car Show

Hosted By

See Rare Legendary Muscle Cars

- Raffle Prizes
- Sassy's Food Truck
- Vendor Tents
- Trophies For Top 25 & 5 Special Classes

DATE: May 6th, 2017
TIME: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
REGISTRATION: 10:00AM to 11:00AM



March Meeting Minutes

The March 2017 meeting was held at Buffalo West, in Fort Worth. There were over 30 members in attendance.

Brad Kershaw called the meeting to order at 11:55 am. [as President John Garfield had been delayed], for the primary purpose of electing the 2017 officials. He welcomed new member Scott Stoddard, who is attending his second meeting. He also welcomed new members Al and Barbara McDonald, who attended last month's meeting, and Brenda Halbrook, a guest of John and CeCe Congleton.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the February meeting were posted in the Newsletter. They were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report. Tom Ossorio reported that we are in good financial shape.

Old Business. Bonnie Kershaw reported that she is wrapping up the Photo Roster, and is narrowing down a printer.

New Business. Brad Kershaw reported the following slate for 2017 officers: Brad, President; Jim Young, 1st Vice President; and Dom Zanella, 2nd Vice President. George Boley will continue as Secretary and Tom Ossorio will continue as Treasurer. The vote was unanimous, and congratulations and best wishes to the new Officers.

Brad and Bonnie briefly went over the upcoming events, and John Congleton added that we need to get to the Cedar Creek show early (8:00 am), in order to obtain the few spots inside.

There will be no meeting for April, due to our Hill Country Tour, Leake Auction, and Easter weekend.

Upcoming Events.

April 7-9 Hill Country Tour: To replace Regionals, it will encompass Burleson, Hamilton, Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Austin, and end in Waco; using the Y.O. Hotel in Kerrville as home base, with room rate \$127/night. The Tentative Itinerary has been published, with more information to follow.

May 6: Sam Pack, Farmers Branch, and Cedar Creek Lake Car Shows.

May 20 Meeting: Picnic at Randol Mill Park, in Arlington. We will invite the Classic Chassis Car Club again this year.

June 17 Meeting: We will meet at Streetside Classics, in north Fort Worth.

July 8 Meeting: At Dickey's, in Arlington, following the first day of the Yellow Rose All Ford Show (July 8-9).

August 19 Meeting: Matito's, in Lewisville.

September 13-17: VTCl Convention, Pine Mtn, GA.

September 16 Meeting: Wheels for Wellness Car Show, in Fort Worth.

October 21: To be announced.

November 11 Meeting: Cruise to lunch and tour of Audie Murphy Museum, Greenville. Details to follow. Walter Martin has volunteered to host this event.

December 3: Christmas Party at Humberdincks, in Arlington, 4-6pm.

Brad adjourned the meeting at 12:30.



March Meeting Pics



Above: A parking lot full of Birds and below, Patio full of friends! Everyone seemed to have a good time at the March meeting at Buffalo West in Fort Worth.





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NTVT Calendar

April 7-9 Spring Hill Country Tour, sponsored by NTVT but open to other Thunderbird clubs. See page 2 for details.

Note: *No regular NTVT meeting in April.*

May 6: 2 Car Show Opportunities: Sam Pack in Farmers Branch and Cedar Creek Lake in Maybank.

May 20: 11 a.m. NTVT Club Meeting /Picnic at Randol Mill Park., 1901 W Randol Mill Rd, Arlington, TX 76012

June 17: 11:30 a.m. NTVT Club Meeting. Streetside Classics, 5400 Sandshell Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76137

July 8: NTVT Club Meeting at Dickies on Ball Park Way in Arlington; the club will attend the Yellow Rose Classic Car Show at the Arlington Convention Center that same day.

August 19: NTVT Club Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Matito's, 1640 S Stemmons Freeway, Lewisville, 75067

September 16: NTVT Club Meeting at Wheels for Wellness Car Show in Downtown Ft Worth

October 14: TAMU Commerce Homecoming Parade

October 21: To be announced.

November 11: Driving Event—Lunch and Cruise to Audie Murphy Museum, Greenville. Details to follow

December 3: Sunday, 4 p.m. Christmas Party at Humperdinks in Arlington.

Regular Meetings/Events: Club sanctioned "extra" events; Non-Club events

Visit These Websites:

NTVT

www.ntvtbird.org

Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](#)

VTCl, our Parent Club

@ www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

The Thunderbird Registry

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