



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 16 Issue 9: Oct, 2019

October 31, 2019

## From the Editor

Dear NTVT members,

I had not planned to publish a newsletter for October, but I decided to put out this short special edition.

First of all, I would like to extend condolences to Nell Strother in the passing of her husband Bill, our long-time member. Although several of us were able to attend either the viewing or the funeral, I thought it would be appropriate to share some information about Bill in this special edition.

Second, I wanted to make sure you are all aware of coming events: the Saturday November 16 driving event and the Christmas Party which has been changed to Sunday, December 8. You will find details on both events in this issue.

Hope to see you all in November and December! Keep in mind, there will be no newsletter in November. Pictures from our driving event will be included in the December newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Kershaw, newsletter editor

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## In Memoriam—Bill Strother, Nov 18, 1934-Oct 21, 2019



Above: Bill and Nell Strother with their Retro at the 2013 VTCI Regional Convention in Houston



Left: Bill Strickland, Bill Strother, and David Silva



Right: Bill and Nell's 1966 Emborglow Landau



At Bill's funeral on October 24, Nell requested a special poem be included in the service program. She gave me permission to reprint both Bill's biography and the poem here:

Longtime Cedar Hill, Texas, resident, Billy Gene Strother, died peacefully on Monday, October 21, 2019, after an extended illness. He was born November 18, 1934, in Forest Hill, Texas, to Phoebe (Wallace) Strother and F.B. Strother. On May, 12, 1962, he married Eunice Nell Bassett, who survives him. Services will be held at First United Methodist Church, Cedar Hill, on October 24, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. with interment at Evergreen Cemetery in Paris, Texas.

Strother was actively involved in his 'adopted hometown of Cedar Hill.' At the time of his death, he was a Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Board of Cedar Hill, having served for 25 years in that capacity. He served on other boards over the years including but not limited to the Trustees of the First United Methodist Church where he was a member, Cedar Hill Shares, and Bridges Safe House.

He grew up in Lamar County, graduated from Paris Junior College and East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce), and continued graduate studies at the University of Dallas. He then began his career with Vought/Northrop Grumman from which he retired in 1995 with more than 38 years of service. He was actively involved in the LTV Retirement Club, operating the club's retirement store until recently. He and Nell were members of the North Texas Vintage Thunderbird Club and enjoyed travel, especially to their favorite destination, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

His concern for others stemmed from a lifelong appreciation for the work of the Shriners having received care for years for a burn sustained as a toddler. Bill recently received the Grand Chapter and Grand Council Sixty Year Service Awards for Capitular and Cryptic Masonry in Texas.

As a young man, Strother joined Big Brothers organization gaining a little brother, James Barclay. In addition to his wife, survivors include sister-in-law Martha Hickman, James Barclay and his wife, Jennifer, many Strother and Wallace cousins, and a host of friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn Street, Dallas, TX, 75219 or the First United Methodist Church of Cedar Hill, 128 N. Roberts Road, Cedar Hill, TX.

### In Memoriam

They say there is a reason  
They say that time will heal  
But neither time nor reason  
Will change the way I feel.  
For no-one knows the heartache  
That lies behind our smiles,  
No-one knows how many times  
We have broken down and cried.  
We want to tell you something,  
So there won't be any doubt,  
You're so wonderful to think of,  
But so hard to be without.  
We cannot bring the old days back.  
When we were all together  
The chain is broken now,  
But memories live forever.

Author Unknown

### A Personal Remembrance by Brad Kershaw

At the first regional VTCl convention I attended in 2002 in New Braunfels, Texas, I was introduced to David Silva, Bill Strickland, and Bill Strother. That was the start of my relationship with the North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds. I say relationship because this club is much more than cars and activities; it is some wonderful people.

Bill Strother was one of those special people. Some of the more "seasoned" members might remember Bill Strother and his Emberglow '66 Landau. This was what he was driving when I first met Bill and Nell. When Bill decided that he could no longer maintain his '66 and sold it, he never dreamed he would be contacted from France asking about the history of his car. Bill could not wait to tell me about where his car ended up. He was so happy that it had been restored and had a new life with someone who really appreciated it and its story.

That was Bill, he always had something to share with me whether it was about Tbirds, church life, or Cedar Hill news. I will miss his enthusiasm the most. I am sure David Silva and Bill Strickland have great stories about Bill as well.



## October Meeting On The Lake!

From the pictures that Jan Young sent in of the gathering at the home of John and CeCe Congleton on October 19th, it looks like it was a great day! I'm just sorry we weren't there!





## Nocona Bound—Nov 16th Driving Event

- Meet 9:30 AM at the Cracker Barrel in Denton.
- 4608 North I-35 in Denton. (Intersection of I-35 and University)
- 9:30 AM Caravan towards Nocona
- 10:00 Pit stop/ regroup at the Quick Trip. (Intersection of I-35 and Hwy 82)
- 10:45 Arrive at the Horton Car Museum
- 11:30 Walk to the Red River Pizzeria for pizza buffet and meeting

Jim Pope will address the club about Nocona area activities. There is plenty to do there that weekend. There are wine tasting events, local musicians, artists, and more museums. Those who want to spend an afternoon will have plenty to do.

Horton Car Museum admission will be \$8.00 provided we have 20 paid admissions. Vets get in free. Please bring cash as we will have to have a single payer for the group.

Red River Pizzeria will be a buffet with a salad. The final cost for the buffet is still in negotiation.

Please bring your walkie talkies if you have one.

## NTVT Christmas Party – New Location!

For the past several years, NTVT has enjoyed a fabulous Christmas Party at Humberdinks in Arlington. Our reservation for the room for 2019 was made before we left the restaurant in 2018. But fate intervened, and Humberdinks closed! They didn't even ask for our opinion!

One of the difficulties of having our annual party at a restaurant is the problem of finding a facility that will give us a room without extra charge. Another issue has been the problem of finding a restaurant that would allow us to order individual meals rather than catering a banquet where we might only have two choices—the ubiquitous chicken or beef.

So we knew it would not be easy to replace Humberdinks who allowed us both of the above! But our intrepid Betsy pulled it off, with little more than 4 months notice! Several members gave her suggestions and she followed up on them, selecting the Candlelite Inn, a longtime favorite in Arlington. The restaurant has been updated and renovated and is very popular. The address is 1202 E Division St, Arlington, TX 76011. We will order from a limited menu.

**The party will be 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sunday December 8.** Hope to see you all there! Betsy still need cookie bakers, door prizes... you all know the drill! Contact her if you can provide cookies for the “take-home” goodie bags or door prizes.

Watch your email for your chance to RSVP! We will need a definite count for the restaurant ahead of time.



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Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](#)

VTCI, our Parent Club  
[www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net)

The Thunderbird Registry

## NTVT Calendar

**Nov 16** Fall day-cruise, Nocona/Munster area  
Dave Egan

**Dec 8** Christmas Party CandleLite Inn, Arlington  
4-6PM Betsy Haber

## Upcoming VTCI Events-Save the Dates!

The 2020 South Central VTCI Regional Convention will be held from June 11-June 14 in New Orleans, LA. We all know that New Orleans folks really knows how to throw a party, so you won't want to miss this convention! It will be held at the Holiday Inn Superdome, which is convenient to many New Orleans attractions. Watch your Scoop or the VTCI webpage for details when they become available.

Later in the summer, you can travel a bit farther and attend the VTCI International Convention from Aug 11-15 at Red Lion Jantzen Beach in Portland, Oregon. This will be a special time, celebrating the 65th birthday of The Thunderbird!

A full schedule of events is being planned including motor-coach tour to view Mt. St. Helen's crater (2020 is the 40th anniversary of the 1980 eruption of that volcano), a motor-coach tour to historic Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood with an opportunity to ride the Magic Mile Chair Lift up to the Glacier, a dinner cruise on the Willamette River, a luxury motor-coach tour to the World of Speed Museum, and a cruise-in to the Portland International Raceway where more than 500 collector cars gather on Wednesday evenings in the summer.

Of course, there will be concours judging on Friday with the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. The registration form is available online at

<http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/events.htm>