



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 17 Issue 2: Feb, 2020

February 28, 2020

## From the Prez

Well fellow Tbirders,

It has been a fun and busy year for your Prez! I enjoyed serving as your President for the past year and couldn't have done it without the help and guidance from previous officers of the club! We have many things to do this year and I know our new officers will do a fantastic job. Most do not know all of the things that are done in the background to make our club the best. Volunteers who help coordinate meetings, events and outings are a must.

Thanks again for letting me serve as your President for the past year. I look forward to many outings and meetings with our Birds.

Dom

## Sooner Tbird Invitation!—Reserve ASAP

On May 8-9, our Oklahoma friends have invited us to participate in an overnight road trip, The Thunder in the Wichitas road trip! Participation in the trip is flexible—you can join in at any point in the trip.

They are spending the night in Lawton, OK on Friday, May 8. You will need to call the hotel directly at 580-353-5555 or go online at [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com). Whether by phone or online, you will need to use the code LSOONE to get the club rate of \$79.00 for the night (\$90.47 with taxes and fees) for a King or 2-Queen room. If you have any problems when calling the hotel, ask for Joanna. This particular weekend will be a busy one in Lawton and to get the discount (or any room at all!) you need to call and reserve right away!

Here is the full agenda:

- Friday, May 8: 10 a.m. Leaving Domino's Truck Stop I-40 & US 81 in El Reno, OK
- National Native American Hall of Fame and/or other attractions-Anadarko, OK
- 1 p.m. Meers Store & Restaurant in Meers, OK—**Cash Only**
- Witchita Wild Life Refuge, Mt. Scott, the Holy City, Refuge Visitors Center.
- Hotel Check-in—Sleep Inn & Suites, Lawton, OK

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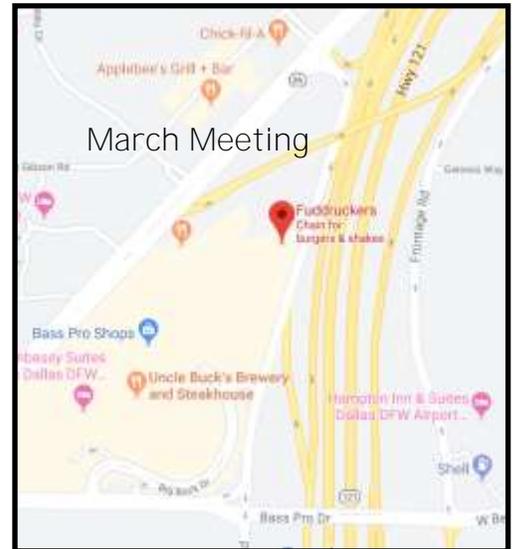
## March Meeting and Election

On Saturday, March 21st, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Fuddrucker's near Bass Pro in Grapevine. The address is 2001 TX-121, Grapevine, TX 76051.

This will be our election meeting, and we hope all can attend! If you have an interest in serving the club, please let Jim Young know ASAP. The only officer vacancy in the election this year is the 2nd Vice President, who is in charge of membership. The duties involve answering inquiries from the webpage and getting new member applications processed (passing along the dues to the treasurer and sending the newsletter editor the member info as well). The current 2nd VP and the 1st VP will rotate upward through the leadership chain, becoming the new President and 1st VP.

Our current secretary and treasurer have agreed to continue in their positions and will run un-opposed unless someone wants to challenge them for their positions.

So come out: Vote, Eat, and Enjoy (sounds a little like a book I read once!) Watch your email inbox for your chance to RSVP.



## Sooner Trip Invitation, Cont

Friday dinner, TBA

After dinner—Casino visit for those who wish.

Saturday, May 9

After breakfast at the Sleep Inn (included in the special room rate), we can visit the Ft. Sill Air Defense Artillery Museum, Field Artillery Museum, Ft Sill National Historic Site, and Post Thrift Shop. There are also other attractions in Lawton such as the Museum of the Great Plains and the Comanche Nat'l Museum and Cultural Cntr.

At 1:00 p.m., the Sooner Club will have lunch and its regular monthly meeting at the Old Plantation Restaurant in Medicine Park, OK. After lunch everyone is on their own exploring the shops in Medicine Park or the Aquarium and Science Center before heading home.

This sounds like a fun trip and it would be a great way to get better acquainted with our sister club members! If you are interested, please call the hotel to secure your room right away. Then call Paul Thomas, Sooner member, at 918-207-2524 or email him at [2k2bird@cablelynx.com](mailto:2k2bird@cablelynx.com) so they can get accurate headcounts for the various venues. Don't forget to tell him at what point you'd like to join in on the trip.

Thank you, Dave Egan, for passing this invitation along to NTVT!



## Minutes from February 15th Meeting

Dom Zanella opened the meeting by thanking Dave Egan for arranging the meeting place. Dom welcomed Jim Stewart to the meeting. Jim bought John Congleton's '66 convertible and will be joining the club! New members Steve and Paula Ward also brought RJ and Candy Stanelle as guests and potential new members. Dom asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. This was moved, seconded, and accepted by acclamation. Tom noted that the club was in good shape financially.

Dom introduced Brian Carron, the VTCI South Central regional director, to talk about upcoming activities. The regional convention is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. The N.O. club always puts on a great convention and this promises to another great time. Brian noted that there would be no traditional judging this time but would have participant judging for the top 25 only. Please sign up soon to give the planners time to insure the best activities for all. Details are in the Scoop or online at [www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net). Brian also noted that the international convention is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in Oregon with details on the VTCI website. John Garfield is organizing a caravan to Oregon so contact him if you would like to participate.

Elections are coming in March so please contact Jim Young if you would like to nominate yourself or another for Second Vice President. A description of the club officer structure was provided in the last newsletter or you can call Jim for more information.

Betsy Haber is looking for suggestions on places for this year's Christmas party. We need a place that can accommodate 50 to 60 people. A limited menu is acceptable with reasonable prices and little or no room charge. Most hotels have a high-priced menu with a large room charge. Betsy suggested looking for small restaurants that might consider opening only for us. Let Betsy know if you have a potential venue.

Bonnie, newsletter editor, asked for pictures and articles from members on themselves and their cars. This is a great way to introduce new members. We may also update the profiles of seasoned members to let newer members get to know them. Dom suggested blooper stories on adventures with our cars. Mark Ibbotson, our webmaster, also asked for pictures and stories for the website. John Garfield asked members to also send Bonnie suggestions on what information or articles they would like to see in the newsletter.

NTVT member George Antochy, who is also an official with the North Texas Mustang Club, gave a summary of upcoming NTMC activities. The Dallas Auto Show, 3/17-3/22, has a classic car gallery and would like some of our cars if possible. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is their convention at Sam Pack's. Summit Racing has asked the NTMC to organize a car show at their warehouse in Arlington for June. Check the NTMC website for more information.

We gave out several door prizes and Betsy Haber won the 50/50.



## Cruising the High Seas

Hi Everyone,

We're counting the days to our upcoming Caribbean cruise April 19-26, 2020.

We have 22 people heading to Galveston on Saturday or Sunday. For those who are heading down on Saturday, most of us are staying at the Comfort Inn & Suites on 89th Street. If you haven't already made a reservation there, you might want to do it soon because April is a busy month due to all the beach goers. We also have a dinner reservation Saturday evening at Shrimp and Stuff, one of my favorite restaurants in Galveston.



If you haven't already done so, please login to the Carnival website **ASAP** and do your online check-in. If you need help, I'll be happy to help. Let me know when completed so our travel agent can print out your documents. **I'll be distributing sailing documents including boarding passes and your luggage tags at the March meeting.** Let me know if you have any questions.

*Happy Sailing!*

Janet Young

memepops1970@yahoo.com

## Belated Wedding Wishes

2019 brought wedding bells for NTVT member Rosa Valdez and her fiancé, Steve Wise. Their ceremony took place out of state, but a whole table full of T-bird friends welcomed the couple back to Texas at their reception in December. It looks like everyone had a wonderful time!

Congratulations, Rosa and Steve! We are so happy for you, and we hope to see lots of you in 2020!





## New Member Highlight: Introducing New Member, Bobby Goins

I guess you could say “I come from a Ford family.” When I was 5, my Dad purchased a 1955 Ford Custom 4 Door, ‘3-on-the-Tree.’ I remember wondering how my parents knew where to move the gear shift. Eventually, I found out first hand when I learned to drive. In 1962, Dad purchased a Baby Blue Ford Galaxy. This was the beginning of my ‘love affair’ with the Thunderbird. When Dad went to pick up the Galaxy, there was a Thunderbird in the showroom. I sat in it and that was it! I told my Dad that we needed the Thunderbird, not the Galaxy. Needless to say, he didn’t heed my suggestion.

So from 1962 on, I looked forward to seeing what changes the Thunderbird had in store. In 1966, I truly fell in love with that model year. I loved the lines, the cleaner front grill, the jet-age instrument panel, the wrap-around back seat, and most of all, the full width ‘winkie’ tail lights. From that time on, I vowed one day I would own one.

Now jump to 2019, 53 years later, and my dream finally came to fruition. After a 3 to 4 month search, I finally found the perfect car for me. Once the decision was made, I had it shipped here from Santa Ana, California. The former owner had purchased it in 2013 in Colorado. The car originally came from Missouri. So it’s well-traveled.

I’m still getting used to vintage car ownership, all the idiosyncrasies of the car, and the excitement of being the current caretaker.

One of the biggest challenges is what issue to tackle next. And then there is the drain on the pocketbook. But what a fun way to go broke!

I look forward to many years of enjoyment.

Editor’s note: Thank you, Bobby, for submitting this for our first highlight of 2020. We welcome you to the club, and we know you will enjoy driving your beautiful bird!





## Veteran Member Highlight

At the February meeting, Bonnie requested assistance in developing articles for the NTVT newsletter. I suggested that we bring back member profiles again, mostly because I can't remember names and knowing a little about someone helps me. That suggestion apparently made it easy for Bonnie to contact me to help kick this off, so here we go:

My name is Betsy McMahon Haber and my husband is Ralph (also known as "Where's Ralph?"). Ralph and I started dating in 2006 but didn't take the leap into our second marriage until March of 2017. I have one daughter who is married and has livened our lives with a now 14-month-old granddaughter. Ralph has two grown daughters, the youngest of whom is still working her way through college at UNT. I had a very long and stressful career in the Oil & Gas industry and was able to escape into retirement last November. It is marvelous to get 8 hours of sleep!

I have been a member of the NTVT since May 2010 and had a Member Profile published in the March 2011 newsletter, so I am not going to repeat the gibberish I wrote the first time. In short, I found my 1966 Springtime Yellow Q-code convertible in Azle in April 2010 with the assistance of one of our past Presidents, Dan Bishop. I attended my first VTCl Regional Convention at the Texas Motor Speedway in June of that year and learned so much about my car from the members of this organization. Subse-



quently, my Bird was entered in the 2011 Fredericksburg Regional, 2012 Austin Regional and finally was judged first place Primary in the 2013 Houston International Convention. I volunteered and stayed involved as much as I had time for in all these club activities and have made a great number of new friends.



Editor's note:  
These two pics are from a show at the home of Danny & Catherine Hutto, members who live in Eastland, TX. They show Ralph and friends exploring the wonders of convertible top relays!





## Highlighting Betsy and Ralph Haber, continued

Just to mention our other classics, I adopted a 1970 Cougar in December 2016. Ralph is pretty much a Buick guy, although any classic car will turn his head. Current ownership of a 1970 Grand Sport, a 1962 Invicta Convertible, and at least two (I heard that there is a third parts car at a friend's shop) 1964 Buick Rivieras that were used in the Nicolas Cage movie "Drive Angry". He has four 1990 Volvo Turbos that he loves to tinker with and use as daily drivers. His current projects are restyling three 1970 station wagons to mirror their muscle car counterparts: a Chevy Chevelle SS, Oldsmobile 442 and of course a Buick GS. I won't bore you with our daily drivers, Ralph's delivery vans or the other parts "carcasses" - it already drives me nuts!

## Congratulations!

Several NTVT members entered cars in the Dallas Auto-Rama recently and came away with awards! Congratulations go to John and CeCe Congleton; their Skyliner took first place in the Restored Convertible category for 1949-1965 and 3rd best restored car in the whole show! Way to go, John and CeCe.



Jim Stewart, a friend of the Congleton's who attended the meeting on Saturday with John and CeCe, also did well, taking 3rd place in the Restored Convertible category for 1958-1967. Congratulations, Jim.



Steve and Paula Ward, who are new members of NTVT, and their friends RJ and Candy Stanelle, who attended our last monthly meeting and who, we hope, will join our group soon, also had cars entered in the AutoRama. Both the Wards and the Stanelles are members of the North Texas American Motors Car Club (center pic below) which had 11 entries in the show, all of which took home awards; look closely in the pic below for Steve and RJ. Congratulations to the Wards and the Stanelles!

Below far left: the Wards' Rambler.

Below far right: The Stanelles' Gremlin





## February Meeting Pictures





## NTVT 2020 Events Calendar

- Mar 21-11:30 a.m.** Fuddruckers, 2001 TX-121, Grapevine, TX 76051, near Bass Pro.
- Apr 18** **No regular meeting;**
- Apr 19-26** **Carnival Cruise 20+ members and friends are going!**
- May 2** Cedar Creek (Mabank Crawfish) Show—let organizer Bill Hanstrom know if you plan to attend. Call the Chamber of Commerce, 903 887 3152 to reserve a spot with the NTVT group in the pavilion.
- May 16-11:30 a.m.** Revolver Brewery in Granbury; bring lawn chairs. Food available from good Food trucks. More details TBA
- Jun 11-14** **VTCI So Central Regional in New Orleans (non-concours judged event 34 people's choice awards only). Apply by 5/11/2020**
- Jun 20 11:00 a.m.** Picnic in Randol Mill Park, 1901 W Randol Mill Rd, Arlington, TX 76012. Possible Whole-Group T-bird picture!
- Jun 27** **Elm Street Rod Run, Hillsboro. Call Brad Kershaw for info.**
- Jul 18 11:30 a.m.** Mercado Juarez, 125 E Interstate 20, Arlington, TX 76018.
- Jul 25-26** **Yellow Rose Classic Car Show, @ Esports Stadium and Expo Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX**
- Aug 11-15** **VTCI International Convention, Red Lion Jantzen Beach, Portland Oregon. Register by July 20. Call John Garfield if you are interested in caravanning as a group.**
- Aug 15 11:30 a.m.** Streetside Classics 5400 Sandshell Dr STE 100, Fort Worth, TX 76137.
- Sep 19 7:30-3:00** **Wheels for Wellness, downtown Ft Worth; Tom Ossorio will announce details later.**
- Oct 17 11:30 a.m.** Home of Ralph and Betsy Haber, Forney. Details TBA.
- Nov 21** **Day Trip to Hillsboro Museum; details TBA**
- Dec 6** **Christmas Party—Location and Time TBA**



## VTCI—Convention Time Is Near!

The VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club International, our parent club) will be having two great events this summer. First will be the 2020 South Central VTCI Regional Convention, June 11-14, in New Orleans, LA. Let the Good Times Roll at the “Birds on The Bayou” which has a terrific schedule of fun activities including tours of local attractions, both automotive and pure New Orleans. There is also the fantastic National Museum of WWII, which history buffs will not want to miss; it will also be the location for A Hank Williams Dinner Show. On Saturday, an escorted driving tour to the Lakefront Airport and alongside Lake Pontchartrain will offer the opportunity to have lunch at Landry’s Seafood House for those who so desire. Nearby one can explore the historic New Canal Lighthouse and Museum. After lunch, the group will drive to City Park. In addition to all the planned activities, New Orleans has many more interesting sites you may want to take in on your own.

Unlike most Regional Conventions, there will be no concours judging at this event. There will, however, be 34 awards presented for Thunderbird excellence as voted on by the convention registrants.

Although there will be no concours judging, one can still learn an incredible amount about the cars from the many experts in attendance. If you want to learn more about concours judging and the standards and categories for judged events, visit the VTCI webpage: [http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/judging\\_classes.htm](http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/judging_classes.htm)

The location for the convention is excellent. The **Holiday Inn : New Orleans-Downtown Superdome**, at 330 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, is right downtown and convenient to many wonderful sights and excellent restaurants. Call or go online to reserve your room now. The rate is \$162.50 (includes tax and parking for 1 car in hotel garage); Call (800) 465-4329 or (504) 581-1600 and refer to group code ATB. You may also book online via link “Acadian Thunderbirds” on the VTCI website. Credit cards provided will be authorized prior to arrival and there is a three day cancellation policy. Offsite trailer parking will be available. Contact Van Gale at (504) 368-1209 or (504) 583-5608 to make arrangements. The deadline for convention registration and hotel reservation is May 11, 2020.

You can find a link to the registration form (which outlines all the costs for the event and the activities) on the events page of the VTCI website: <http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/events.htm>

Then from August 11 through the 15th, you can attend the VTCI International Convention at Red Lion Jantzen Beach, in Portland Oregon. This convention will



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### VTCI Convention Info, continued

celebrate the 65th birthday of the Thunderbird. "65...And Still The One," hosted by the NW Vintage Thunderbird Club will also offer a full schedule of activities including a motor coach tour to view the Mt. St. Helens crater; 2020 is also the 40th anniversary of the eruption of that volcano. There will also be a tour to the historic Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood that will include the opportunity to ride the Magic Mile Chair Lift up to the glacier. You won't want to miss a dinner cruise on the Willamette River, or the tour to the World of Speed Museum. There will be a cruise-in to the Portland International Raceway where more than 500 collector cars gather Wednesday evenings in the summer.

Concurs judging in a range of Divisions will occur on Friday with the awards presented at the banquet on Saturday evening. If you have never attended a judged convention, read up on the divisions and the judging standards on the VTCI website.

The deadline for registration for both the convention and the hotel room is Monday, July 20, 2020. But don't delay! Standard rooms will be \$139 per night and Premium rooms \$149. When you call the Red Lion on the River-Jantzen Beach (503-283-4466) be sure to ask for the NW Vintage Thunderbird Club Discounted Rate which includes a free breakfast.

Find the link to the registration form on the VTCI website on their Events page:

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

Several members of our club are planning to attend. If you would like to caravan to Oregon for this great event, contact John Garfield.

### Annual NTVT Dues Are Due!

If you haven't paid your 2020 dues, please send a check for \$30.00 to Tom Ossorio, our treasurer. If you need his address, email him or the newsletter editor!



### Visit These Websites:

NTVT

[www.ntvtbird.org](http://www.ntvtbird.org)

Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](#)

VTCI, our Parent Club

[www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net)

The Thunderbird Registry

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