



T Bird News

North Texas Vintage
Thunderbirds, Inc.
Local Chapter of VTCI

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From the Prez

Hello, Fellow T-Birders!

It has been a while since our last newsletter and I hope this finds you well. It has given many of you plenty of time to polish up those Thunderbirds.

With the pandemic and other things going on, we are hoping to get together soon once again to enjoy our birds and each others' company. I know many are concerned about social distancing and our plans are to meet consistent with the guidelines for Covid-19. We are supposed to meet on June 20th if all goes as planned.

Take care of yourselves and hope to see you soon.

Dom

Note from the Editor

It has been quite the year so far, hasn't it? I would make a joke about the shortage of toilet paper and the extreme need to clean up so much "stuff" going on in our lives right now, but it would fall flat, I'm afraid. Stuff happens and we need a lot more than toilet paper to fix it all!

With all the concerns over the Corona Virus and now the racial tensions and the violence that has occurred over the past few weeks, it has been difficult. With none of our regular social activities, I have had a lot of time to think (and that isn't always a good thing!). One thought that has surfaced, though, is my realization of just how much this club means to me, and I think to many of us. I have definitely missed getting together with all of you.

I apologize for not being more regular in communicating with you all. Truthfully, I just haven't felt up to writing much. Additionally, it has been difficult for the board to plan activities and meetings under the restraints imposed by local governments and the knowledge that some of our members might not be comfortable meeting in large groups inside a restaurant.

But it is time to learn to live in the world with Corona Virus, venturing out but maintaining our safety as far as possible. On the next page you will see the plans for the June meeting, which will be held outdoors. We hope lots of you can attend.

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June Meeting—Outdoors & Socially Distant, But Fun!

If Covid-19 has taught us nothing else, it has taught us to be flexible! There are some changes to our picnic meeting scheduled for **11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20, 2020.**

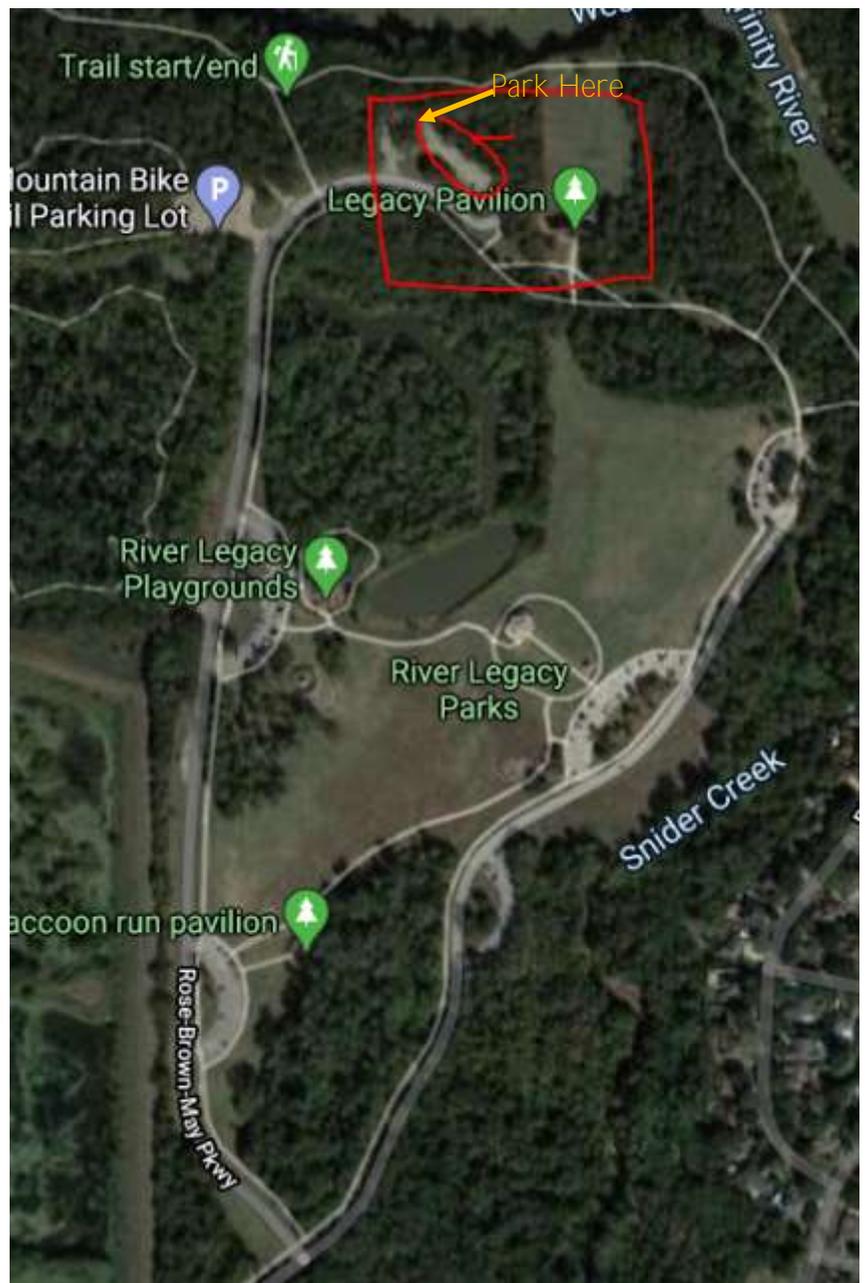
First, we can't get a firm commitment from Arlington Parks and Rec on our Pavilion rental reservation. The parks are open, but the pavilions are not.

Second, even if the pavilion is ready, a problem with Randol Mill Park has arisen. The parking lot near the pavilion we had reserved will likely be very crowded due to a rescheduled baseball tournament and the reopening of their swimming pool. It will be difficult to get a group picture there. The Parks Department has suggested we relocate to a pavilion in River Legacy Park, a much prettier area with adequate parking.

Third, we are still in pandemic mode so we feel it best if we each **bring our own lunches (including drinks) and lawn chairs. There is a McDonalds and a Whataburger on Collins north of I30 but you are encouraged to bring your picnic from home or farther away unless you like those two fast food options.**

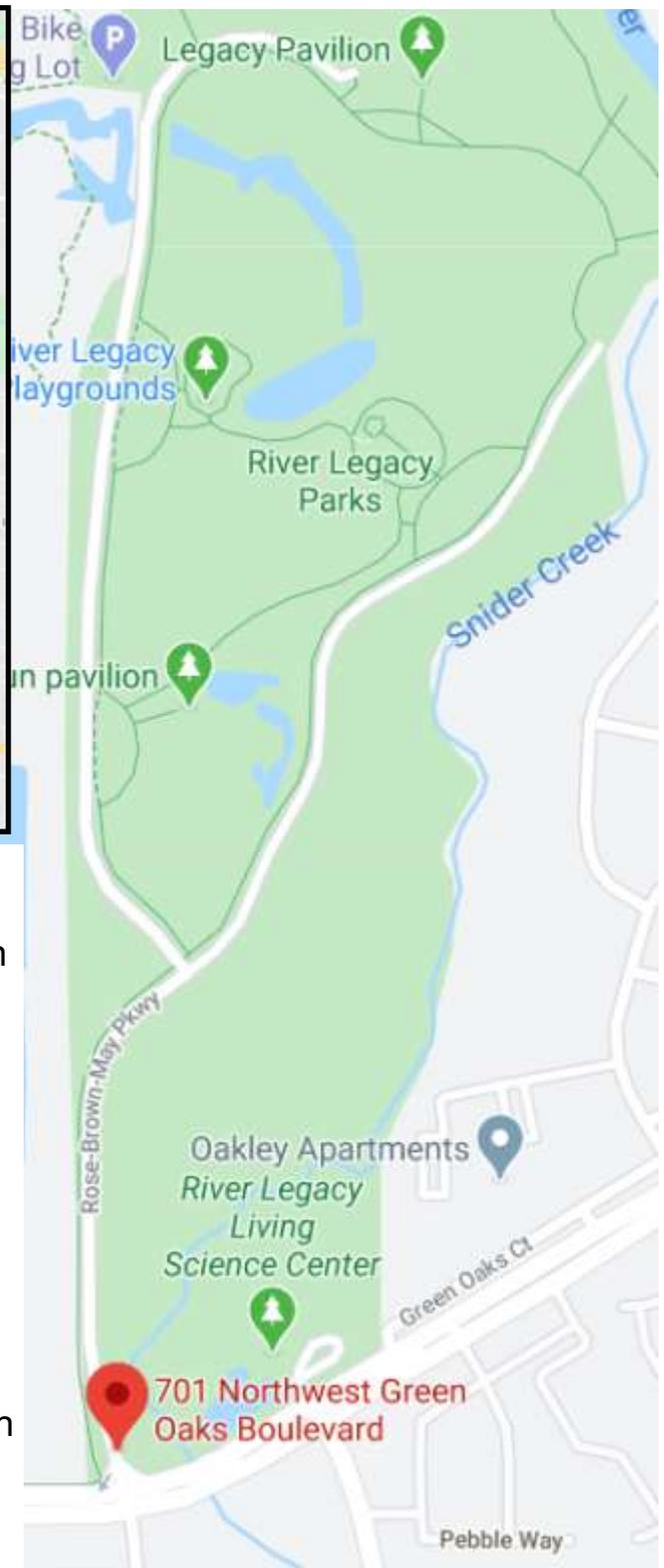
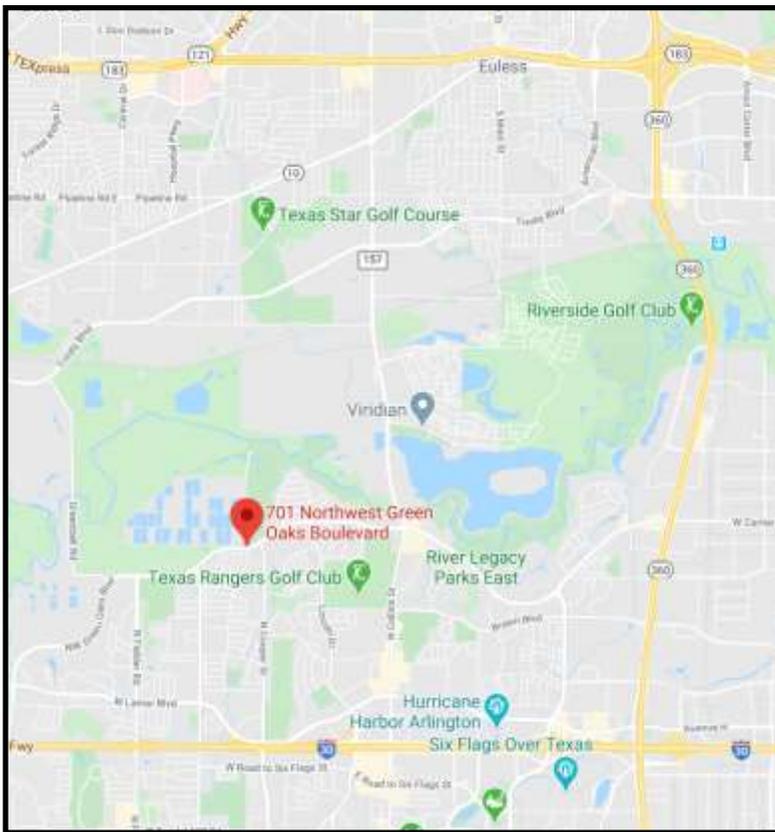
The pavilion at River Legacy is very large so we can spread out in order to be all together but safe. Recent research shows that outdoor events are much less risky for transmission of the virus than indoor events. **Masks are encouraged as we mill around and visit with one another** and many of us fall into the "vulnerable" category.

We are hoping to get a new group picture of as many of our Thunderbirds as possible. Hope you can come and bring your bird!





June Meeting at River Legacy Park in Arlington, cont.



The address is River Legacy Park, 701 NW Green Oaks Blvd. Arlington, TX 76006. The Legacy Pavilion parking area is located in the far back part of the park.

Access is best from Interstate 30. Exit Collins and go north to NW Green Oaks Blvd. Turn left until the stoplight at Margaret Drive; turn right into the main entrance to the park. Follow the road ca 1/4 of a mile until it forks; go left at the fork (toward the pavilions), and continue past the playground **all the way up to the large pavilion at the far north end of the park. You can't go any farther.**

We don't know for sure if use of the pavilion will be allowed, but there is plenty of space outside it as well if needed. Watch your email inboxes after June 9th for a chance to RSVP as we will meet in that spot either in the pavilion or under the trees!



Looking for Fun on Tuesday Evenings?

Member Marian Herbst has let us know that a group of classic car lovers have been meeting for dinner (socially distanced inside their own cars!) at the Sonic Drive in on Central Drive in Bedford every Tuesday night. The group is growing and it's a fun, safe way to get out and about and enjoy seeing some great cars. It starts at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays are 1/2 price burger nights at Sonic, so it's a bargain as well! You never know who you might see there! Check with Marian if you have any questions.



Get Well Wishes

We hope all of our "ailing" members are improving. Several have been pursuing physical therapy, and Walter Martin had shoulder surgery followed by physical therapy. Delpheine tells me he is doing well and hating his sling!

Auction Reminder

Don't forget that the club members have been invited to check out the online auction at gogreenbid.com where members Doug Neal and Juan Sanchez are selling many antiques, automotive items, collectibles, and household items.

Check out the catalog. I already have my eye on some neat stuff! The auction title is **TEXACO Star Trek NEON SIGNS Tools** Fort Worth, TX and can be found online at <https://www.proxibid.com/Green-Bid-Auctions-Inc/TEXACO-Star-Trek-NEON-SIGNS-Tools-Fort-Worth-TX/event-catalog/180137>

Smaller items (under 55 pounds can be shipped; larger items must be picked up on June 14, 15, or 16. Online bids close on June 13.

Your Opinion Matters

Watch your inbox for an email regarding future meetings. We would like to know what the members feel about resuming regular meetings, whether we should stick to outdoor venues for awhile or go on with our calendar as scheduled.

Please take a minute to let us know your thoughts when you receive your survey.



New Member Highlight: Welcome, Michael Kluger!

My name is Michael Kluger, and I only moved to Texas recently (Fall of 2019) from my native Germany. By education, I am a mechanical engineer, but I have worked in logistics all my life, which is also what brought me to Dallas, as I have recently taken on a new role in the Irving based global HQ of my employer of 7 years (Neovia Logistics). At some part in my career, I have worked for the Ford Motor Company for about 5 years – this was in their European HQ in Cologne, Germany.

So, even though I have never had a Ford-connection from the family side (my Dad drove Opel cars for many years and later switched to Mercedes), I have had an eye on the Blue Oval ever since working for them in those days. Since late 2012, back home in Germany, I own a 1966 Mustang convertible (289 automatic, Spring Time Yellow, black top and interior, built in San Jose, CA, and “black plate” registered in California until the Summer of 2012), and I have enjoyed this immensely for the past years. Sharing that passion with a dear cousin of mine, he has also brought my attention to classic birds some years ago...

Since I am in Dallas, I have enjoyed my daily drivers (a 2000 Mercedes SL600 and a 2006 Jaguar XJ8L), but have always kept my eyes open for a true classic... Watching a lot of auctions on Bring a Trailer over the past weeks (Jeez, the COVID-19 home office isolation can be so boring...), I was intrigued by this 1962 T-Bird Convertible... A beautiful car to start with, it was: **a)** based in Dallas already, so I went out to see and test drive it and **b)** it was Tucson Yellow (VERY close to my Mustang’s Spring Time Yellow!) with a black interior, too... Completely unplanned, I put in a few bids but was 100% certain that the bidding would go way higher than the personal limit I had set for myself... Lo and behold, as of mid-afternoon on May, 7th, I found myself to be the owner of this beautiful bird!



So, as you can gather from this brief history of how-Michael-got-to-own-a-bird, I am a babe in the woods when it comes to classic birds, and I am sure to need to learn a LOT going forward so I can appropriately fulfil my duties as the custodian of this beautiful piece of automotive history.

Very much looking forward to meeting the other members of the NTVT & with my very best wishes,

Michael

Editor’s note: Thank you, Michael for the lovely introduction, and on behalf of the club, we welcome you to our group!



Veteran Member Highlight: Tom & Sheri Ossorio

I got the car bug at a very early age. I used to ride my bike to all of the car dealerships and look at all the new models. I used to be able to identify every year, make and model of every car. I am a car lover and appreciate all cars. I followed sports cars very closely and kind of went down the sports car route instead of the muscle. I currently own a 1987 Nissan 300ZX as my other fun car. I was able to go to a lot of road races and drag races when I was young. I subscribed to Sports Car Graphic, Car & Driver and Road & Track as a teenager.

I really like the cars of the 20's and 30's like Auburns, Cords and Duesenberg's. The craftsmanship on these cars is magnificent. This to me is the golden era of automobiles. I am also a huge Packard fan.

My very first love was the Studebaker Avanti. Upon my frequent trips to the car dealerships, I would always go to the Studebaker dealership and look at the Avanti. The one in the show room was white with fawn interior. I purchased one 15 years ago (white with fawn interior) and it has been through restoration hell. Sheri's father was restoring this car when he passed and I wanted to finish it in his memory. I also belong to Avanti Owners Association International (AOAI). There are no meetings because there are very few Avanti's on the road, but they produce a nice quarterly magazine.

I have always liked T-Birds (being a Ford man), but this is my first one and it has a very special place in our hearts. Sheri's father restored this car along with a 1928 Model A (which I could not even fit in the seat) and a 1916 White Motor Company flatbed truck (he owned a truck dealership). Several years ago he died and we purchased the car from the estate to get it off her mom's hands and keep it in the family. After a year and a half of trying to get the mechanics working correctly we finally were able to get her painted and re-chromed and now she looks beautiful.





Veteran Member Highlight: Tom & Sheri Ossorio

While running laps at TMS at the convention in 2010, Sheri had a tear in her eye as this was the first time she had ever been for a ride in the car. She was thinking of her dad. It was a wonderful experience.

As soon as I got the car I went online to find a T-Bird club and was lucky enough to find NTVT. I knew right away that I would need some help in maintaining this car and needed to be associated with people that know about them (Brad has been a godsend) as I lacked the history of the T-Bird and the intricate knowledge of auto mechanics. Because of my bad back I am unable to tinker much with the cars so I have kind of been relegated to the spectator/driver category.



Sheri's mom and dad were in also in a car club and they made many new friends and just enjoyed being around car people. We love it also. That is why I volunteered to be Treasurer, a job I have held now for over 10 years. It is fun to be involved in our activities.

My hobbies are cars, golf, grilling on the BBQ and drinking beer. Sheri's hobbies are reading & shopping.

We love to travel and spent a week in Hawaii last year with our daughter and granddaughter as a celebration for finishing college and adding a masters degree all online as a single mom. Best part is "SHE HAS A JOB NOW". We are also going again this year with our Denver friends to celebrate our 30th anniversary and their 50th.

My occupation is computer programming. I currently write software for heavy duty truck dealerships. Our company sells and supports the software we write. I have been in this business since 1979, which is also the last time I called in sick for a full day.

Sheri is starting a new career as a realtor. She has been at it since March of this year. The virus has slowed her down a little bit, but she is out there showing houses (mask & gloves in hand).

I do have one funny T-Bird story. When I first got the car I took it to my mechanic. He put the car on the lift on Friday evening when he went home. When he returned on Monday there was a pile of rubber on the ground. The rear bushings had disintegrated. He could not find any bushings so he fabricated them with a coke can and PVC pipe. See the picture to the right. We did an inspection before the TMS laps and they were looking pretty good.





Members Out and About

A couple of our NTVT members ventured out to The Fallen Officers Fund Car Show hosted by Frank Kent Country Car Dealership in Corsicana on May 31st.

Gary Sestito showed off his beautiful bullet bird; and out of the 150+ entrants, John Congleton's Skyliner took home Best of Show! Even though John didn't win with a Thunderbird, we are happy for him! His Skyliner is gorgeous, and we know he still loves his Retro even if it doesn't get quite the attention the Skyliner does!

John also won the 50/50 drawing and then donated his winnings to the worthy cause. John, you are a great guy, and we are proud of you!





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NTVT 2020 Events Calendar

- Jun 20 11:00 a.m.** Picnic in River Legacy Park, 701 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, 76006 Whole-Group T-bird picture!
- 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 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; details TBA
- Dec 6** **Christmas Party**—Location and Time TBA
- Jan 16, 2021** Tachitos in Dallas

Events in black text are regular meetings. Other events are encouraged!

All events subject to change. Watch your email for announcements!

Visit These Websites:

NTVT

www.ntvtbird.org

Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](#)

VTCI, our Parent Club

www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

The Thunderbird Registry

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