



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 17 Issue 4: June, 2020

June 29, 2020

## From the Prez

Hello, All T-Birders!

It was great to see you all at our meeting in the park! Unfortunately, we couldn't get pictures of all the birds together using Jim Young's drone. Well, maybe in the future. I know how many city and county governments are enacting more restrictions for Covid-19 and we are not sure how this is going to affect our July 18th meeting.

Wishing all of you to stay well, follow the guidelines, and see y'all at our next meet.

Dom

## NO Car Show on July 3rd!

The car show scheduled for the Hidden Springs of McKinney has been postponed. More details later!

## July 4th Bar B Que at the Martin's Home

Walter, Delphiene, and Ivan have invited the club to share in their annual Texas-style BBQ on the 4th of July, located at 1751 FM 547 , Farmersville TX. 75442.

It starts at 12 noon and will go to ?? p.m. or until we run out of food or people. We will be serving brisket, hamburgers, hotdogs and side dishes plus our frozen margaritas. We will try social distancing but if you are worried please be fine wearing a mask, we have plenty of room and we are sanitizing everything. If you want to bring a side dish call Delphiene at 241-675-3341 and coordinate with her. Walter 972-896-7633.



## July 18th Meeting—Changed to River Legacy Park

Well, I don't know about all of you, but I was looking forward some tasty Mexican food in July. However, Mercado Juarez contacted us and cancelled our reservations due to the renewed restrictions on restaurant occupancy. Covid-19 wins again! Darn! If Mexican food is your desire, however, stop at Taco Bell on your way to the Raccoon Landing at River Legacy Park (the first pavilion on the right after the left **TURN** from the main road into the park) on Sat. July, 18th for a meeting and byo meal similar to our June meeting. Watch your email inboxes for a reminder.

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## June Meeting Minutes

Dom Zanella opened the meeting by thanking Bonnie for arranging the park pavilion. Dom asked that we accept the meeting minutes as published in the newsletter, all agreed. Tom noted that the club was in good shape financially.

Dom welcomed Michael Kluger to the club. Michael provided an introduction that Bonnie included in the last newsletter. Russ Foster introduced his wife Susan to the club. John Garfield introduced Greg and Nadine, his son-in-law and daughter, who are buying his '65 convertible. There were thirty-five members and four prospective members present, including Tim Stephens and his wife, Brenda How. The cars included a '56, '60, three '66's, '87, '88, and some great retros.

Dom reported that the regional convention scheduled for New Orleans this year was rescheduled for June of 2021. The international convention scheduled for Oregon has been rescheduled for August 2021. Look for details on the VTCI website later this year. Dom noted that while these Tbird events had been cancelled, there are many local car shows opening up. If you know of or attend any shows please let the club know and send pictures so these can be included in the newsletter. Get your cars out so the community can see and enjoy them.

Dom noted that the NTVT board has decided to keep the elected officers in place for this year. This year is crazy enough without elections and new officers added to the chaos.

Bonnie shared a conversation she had with Harley Eaton, a lifetime member of NTVT. Harley is currently in a rehab facility but hopes to return to his senior facility soon. He expects to be moving to Austin to live with his daughter in the near future. Harley owned a Tbird restoration business in Southlake and is well known to our more tenured members.

Bonnie, the newsletter editor, asked for pictures and articles from members on themselves and their cars. This is a great way to introduce new members and how they came to find their Thunderbird. Dom recognized Mark Ibottson, the webmaster, who asked for pictures and stories for the website. Bonnie asked if members had parts to sell or wanted to send the information to her for inclusion in the newsletter.

Brad reported on a '65 Special Landau the owner would like to sell. This car has the emberglo paint with parchment top and interior. The owner said that the engine would not turn over (possibly seized). There are a few chips in the paint on the hood; the driver's door panel is rough; the chrome is good "driver" quality. Last licensed in 1996, the car has not moved since then. When Brad looked at the car in person, he did not see any major issues with the car other than engine. He is sure it would need engine, trans, brakes, cooling system, and power steering work after sitting this long. The owner has a 1970 LTD with a 390 engine that could be part of a package deal. If you are interested in getting this unique Tbird back on the road contact Brad for pictures and contact information.

Russ Foster shared information on wire wheels for the retro Tbirds. If you are interested, please contact him to see his and get the latest information he has on wheels and tires.

Marion Herbst reported that the All Ford Show is on for the Arlington Convention center July 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in registering your car check the website, [www.ntmc.org](http://www.ntmc.org) for forms and rules. You may also check their Facebook page for details as they are available.

The Cedar Creek Lake show has been rescheduled to August 29<sup>th</sup>. This is always a good show with a lot of food and great cars. Let John Congleton know if you plan to attend and he may be able to save a place for you in the pavilion. Our club won the club participation trophy last year and would love to repeat this year.

Check the newsletter for information on our next meeting at Mercado Juarez in Arlington.

We gave out several door prizes and Anita Ibottson won the 50/50.  
Submitted by Brad Kershaw



## Yellow Rose All Ford Car Show



The Yellow Rose Car Show will be held July 25-26 at the Arlington Expo Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas 76011. Move in will be on July 24. Your car must remain on the premises for the entire show.

If you have not registered but are interested in showing your Thunderbird, you will find the registration form attached to the email message delivering this newsletter. Mark NTVT as your club affiliation unless you want to be located with the Little Bird Club. Call Marian Herbst if that is your choice. Either way, don't wait! Register now!

## Cruise on the Square in Flower Mound—July 11

Parker Square, at 1500 Cross Timbers Rd in Flower Mound will be the place to be on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 4-8 p.m. Open to all makes and models for a \$15.00 registration fee (payable on day of show), this would be a great time to showcase our beautiful Thunderbirds!

Hosted by the No TX Mustang Club, this is a monthly event.



## Cedar Creek Lake Car Show Rescheduled

Originally scheduled for May, this excellent car show has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 29th at the Mabank Pavilion, 483 S. Easley Pkwy, Mabank, TX 75147. If you registered and paid your fee for the original show, all you have to do is show up at 8:00 a.m. to park in the pavilion with our club. If you have not registered, call John Congelton or the Chamber of Commerce in Mabank (903-887-3152 ).

## Wheels for Wellness Cancelled for 2020

The participation of the No TX Vintage Thunderbirds in the Wheels for Wellness Charitable Car Show has been a longstanding tradition, but it won't happen in 2020 due to the pandemic.



**Wheels for Wellness**  
Driven to fight Prostate Cancer

I would encourage all the members who have enjoyed participating in the past to go to their webpage at <http://wheelsforwellness.org/benefit-car-show> . Select the Donate button and make a donation to the cause of raising Prostate Cancer Awareness and Funding Research. This worthy cause, dear to the hearts of several of our members who are prostate cancer survivors, needs our support even though we can't have the show this year!



A meeting in the fresh air



Susan and Russ Foster



Dan Hubert and Anya



Food, Fellowship, and 50/50 Tickets....who could ask for more?



Steven Ward and Eloy Villafranca



Tim Stephens and Brenda Hoy



## More New (Newish?) Members



Ed Fairchild



Bobby Goins



Nadine and Greg



Michael Kluger

## Name Tag Possibilities

The club is exploring possibilities for a new name tag for all of us. Tom Ossorio brought a sample to the June meeting. See the photo A top right.

Several people expressed a desire to incorporate the new logo we recently adopted (see below), but it would likely be cost prohibitive to have that complex a design done on a name tag and still have it be readable.

I played around with a couple of ideas and came up with a possible vertical design. (see B, below right).

If you had to choose today, would you prefer A or B?

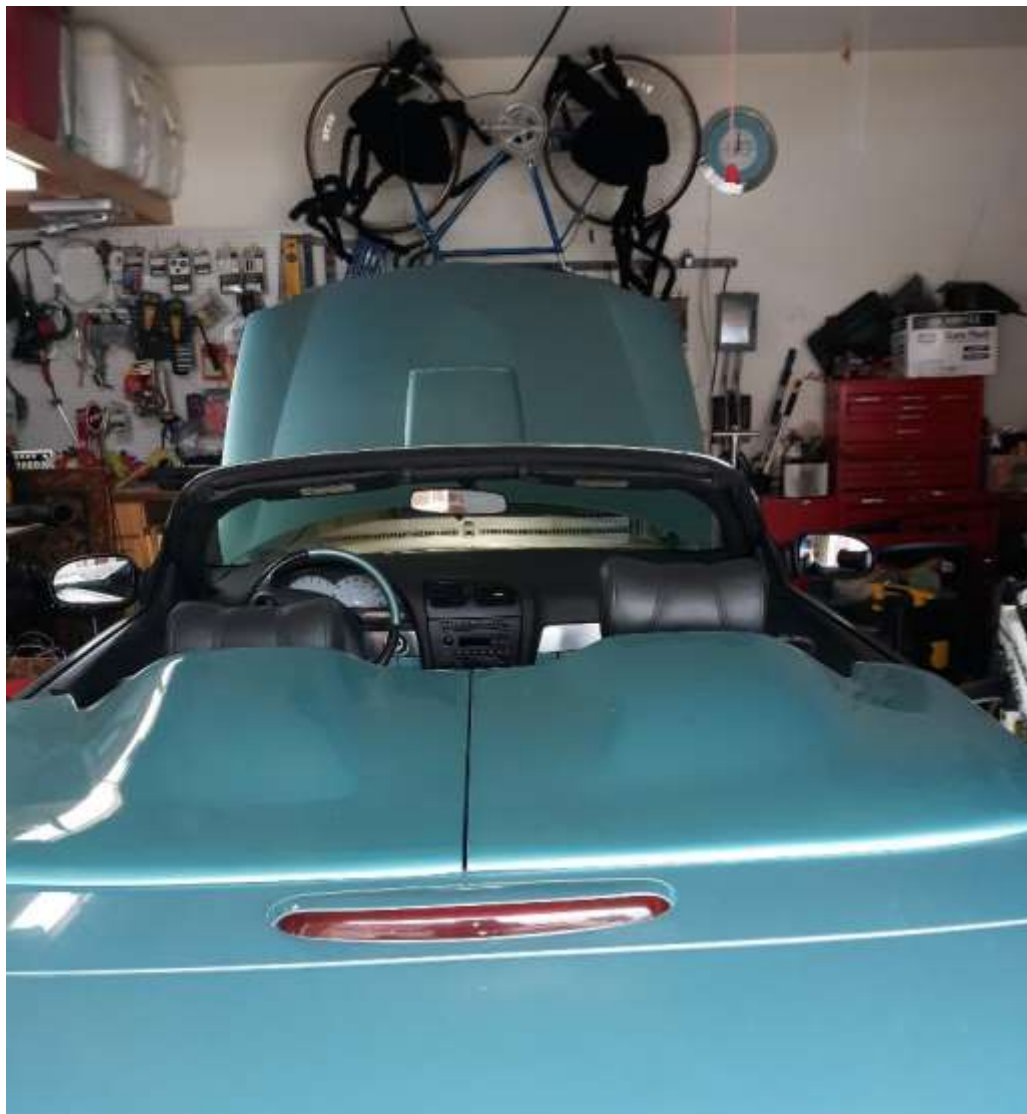




## New Member Highlight: Welcome,

Greetings All, from two of your newest(?) members Eloy and Kitty Villafranca.

We have a 2002 Blue TBird that I say is turquoise and call her "Lady Blue". I bought the car from S. Carolina and had it shipped to Texas. I added the hard (humped) tonneau cover almost immediately. The car has the usual problems that all of these have after hitting 100K; runs fine until about 40mph then goes ragged. My mechanic tinkered some with it, replaced a few coils, but it didn't really help. (He was working on another project for me--completely rebuilding my 78 L82 350 corvette engine, so was trying to try the little things first). He told me to take it out on the Bush turnpike and drive it hard. Cannot do that until I get a toll tag for it. Cannot do that until it gets license plates. Cannot do that until the "check engine" light goes out. Cannot do that until the problems are fixed. Did I say how pretty this car is?





Now I am NOT a mechanic but I am learning more each day. I did completely rebuild my '78 corvette's brake system; lines, rotors, pads, etc., so I am not afraid of trying. I bought a workshop DVD online and have been slowly working on the car. I currently am down to the fuel injector manifold.

Now before I go any further, I have to give FULL DISCLOSURE and share that we know Steven and Paula Ward from years ago with the Dallas Jaguar Club. DON'T JUDGE US YET! We joined before seeing the pictures but we are excited to see them again. Really have not met anyone so enamored with his cars like Steven.

I work for the FDIC (just hit 30 yrs last October) and was a Banker prior to that for 14 years. I am currently the Regional Manager for 8 states. My wife (Ms. Kitty) retired from Sabre/AA three years ago. We have one giant St. Bernard (Maximus Aurelias) who is four years old. We live in deep S. Grand Prairie close to Joe Pool Lake. Ordinarily I have an office in downtown Dallas.

Cannot wait until we can meet in person. Just reading everyone's remarks makes me feel at home. Hopefully we can host a meeting one of these weekends. That's my story and I am sticking to it! NOW...how hard do I need to pull on this manifold to get the injectors out...?!

...and by the way, I am a singer for the GMEN Band...can't wait to meet everybody!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Eloy, for the great writeup and pics. I apologize for not getting this in the newsletter sooner. Can I blame it on Pandemic Brain? I blame everything else on it. It was a pleasure meeting you in February and seeing you again in June.





## Veteran Member Highlight:

### My Bird Story

I can remember being a kid and seeing my first Thunderbird on TV. It was a '57, red with a white interior, gorgeous! After that I had the T-bird bug and there was no cure. Of course I was a kid and could not afford a Thunderbird. I could barely afford to pay attention!

In 1982, I joined the Army and returned from basic training needing a new car. I made a trip to my local Ford dealer in El Paso and as I walked into the showroom, there it was, a new 1983 Thunderbird Turbo Coupe!! I immediately fell in love with it. The aerodynamic body lines, monochromatic paint scheme and Turbo motor just screamed performance and luxury. I turned to my, then, wife and said "I am gonna get one of these someday". Unfortunately that day was not it. I left the dealership with a new Escort and a yearning to get a Thunderbird.

I was sent to Germany for 4 years, and that little Escort served me well, but just was not the car for me. Once I was reassigned back to the U.S., I began looking for a new car. Lucky for me, the Base Exchange had an auto program for soldiers where we could order the car and pick it up stateside. Well, that was all I needed to know and I ordered a 1987 Ford Thunderbird Turbo Coupe in Medium Gray Clear coat Metallic. My wife at the time was not a car person and was none to happy that I spent 16 grand on a car (quite a sum for a SGT).

The car was delivered to El Paso, where I was stationed, and I picked it up as soon as I got to town. I was shaking with excitement when they pulled her around to deliver it. I finally got to drive my dream car!!! I was driving it back to the house all excited and got goin' a little fast (90 in a 55 MPH zone) and attracted one of El Paso's finest on the freeway. I thought "Oh Crap, just got this and I am gonna get a ticket the first day!!". Remember, I just got back from Germany where there are no speed limits on the autobahn!! Well I got lucky. The police officer was a former MP in the Army and he saw my European license and asked, "How long have you been back?". I informed him that I got back the day before and just picked up the car 15 minutes ago. He laughed and said "You ain't on the autobahn anymore so slow your a\*\* down and have a good day". I wiped the sweat from my brow and continued on home.

I had the car for three years, when my wife (now ex) told me to get a bigger car cause it was to hard to haul the kids around. I told her the car she had could do that. She had a four door Ford Fairmont. So to keep the peace I traded my dream car off to get an Explorer. Now the Explorer was a fine vehicle, but it was not a Thunderbird.

I have been wanting that car back ever since. It took me a while to find one in good enough condition, with the same equipment and the same color. I finally had





the means and a wife who appreciated my love of cars. She also appreciates my mechanical skills fixing hers. Ha Ha. I found my '88 Thunderbird Turbo Coupe and ran to go look at it. She wasn't as nice as she is now, but I could see the shining jewel under the dirt. I got lucky because the previous owner kept all the paperwork and maintenance records. I knew that the cars was in decent running condition and just needed a little TLC. The owner was glad to sell it to someone who appreciated Thunderbirds and knew it was in good hands.

My Turbo Coupe has seen many car shows and country drives on a sunny Sunday. I drive it every chance I get when the weather permits and I probably put more miles on it than I should. I just feel that a car is meant to be driven otherwise it is just one big expensive trophy. It has also brought me to a great bunch of people in the Vintage Thunderbird Club. That is what it's all about, friends enjoying each others passions about our Thunderbirds!! I love them all.





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### NTVT 2020 Events Calendar

- July 4 11 a.m.-??** Bar B Que at the Martins  
1751 FM 547 , Farmersville TX. 75442.
- Jul 12 4 p.m.** Flower Mound on 11th St at Parker Square.
- Jul 18 11:30 a.m.** TBA
- 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.
- August 29, 8 a.m. Cedar Creek Car Show, Mabank Pavilion, 483 S. Easley Pkwy, Mabank, TX 75147
- Sep 19 7:30-3:00** TBA
- 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](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/>