



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCI

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## Message from the Pres

Hello, fellow T-birders,

Another month in our Covid-19-controlled year has gone by; and it has had an impact on our activities all year. We have, however, been able to do a few things together!

I am writing this after our fantastic fall cruise to Clifton that was organized by Brad and Bonnie Kershaw. It was a fantastic time for those who were able to attend. We got the Birds out and some drone shots of the Birds. Hopefully, we can do a full club get together and get a great shot of our whole club like we did in 2011. For now, keep the rubber side down and keep cruising those Thunderbirds!

Dom

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## Covid Strikes Again—More Cancellations



The annual Christmas Party originally scheduled for Dec 6th will be cancelled and replaced with an outdoor event where everyone can come by and pick up their new NTVT T-shirts which should arrive in early December. Tentatively planned for Saturday, Dec 12th, watch your email for details on the location and time. At that event, you can simply drive through and get your shirt/shirts, or park and socialize safely with masks, keeping our selves appropriately distanced!

Additionally, some of us had been hoping for an overnight trip through southeastern OK and AR before the end of the year. But Dave Egan, who had been researching the possibilities, tells us that with the Covid numbers increasing in both states, it is not advisable to make this trip this year. Hopefully, we can look forward to making that trip in 2021.

## A New Owner-Installed Option for Your Retro?



Member Tim Stephens sent us this picture of his Retro. *Would you call this a Retro Rumble Seat?* Might be handy for those times when you want a couple of extra seats for the grandkids...well, probably not! Actually, Tim just needed to get those cute lawn chairs home, and he made it work!



## Fall Day Cruise to Clifton



Sixteen or seventeen vehicles made the trip to Clifton on Saturday, Nov. 7th. We stopped for a photo opportunity at a roadside park just outside of Morgan, TX. It was great fun to be together again!



Luckily, the Clifton Sonic wasn't too busy, at least until we arrived. But we all got served in time to eat our socially distant meals and head over to the Clifton Classic Chassis Car Museum several blocks away. See the pics from inside the museum on the next page.





## Cruise to Clifton, cont.



The museum gave us a terrific look at American culture of the 50s and 60s, complete with period furniture, store displays, and even the iconic Aluminum Christmas tree that many of us remember in our own childhood homes.

Dr. Terry Watson, owner and host for the tour, spent time giving us background and interesting info not only on the excellent and varied collection of cars, but on the fine art as well. There was truly something for everyone in that art collection from ancient artifacts to modern sculpture. There was even a limited edition set of Salvador Dali prints that Terry confessed he got as a real bargain many years ago and whose real worth he didn't know until he opened the museum in 2011 and got them appraised. He said his appreciation for the 6 prints, formerly stored rolled up in a closet in his home increased significantly!



After the museum tour, several members left directly for home, but 10 or 12 of us decided to wind down with wine at the Lost Oak Winery in Burleson. We enjoyed each other's company, some cheese and snacks, and some wine, of course! Michael, we



failed to get a picture of you and your guest, John, at the winery, but I did get a good shot of your beautiful '62 at the end of her debut run with the club!



Special thanks to John Garfield, Brad Kershaw, and Michael Kluger for sending pics for this story.





## VTCI News

In October we received an update on VTCI, our parent organization, from Brian Carron, the Director of the VTCI South Central Region:

- VTCI's current membership stands at 941 and 24 Honorary Life Time memberships. Since the beginning of 2020, 45 brand new members have joined!
- Regarding finances, the 2020 dues for VTCI had increased to \$40 per year; and the financial status of the club is stable.
- 2020 Conventions were cancelled and rescheduled for 2021 in the same locations as scheduled. Our region (South Central) will have its convention in June in New Orleans. Details and the exact dates have not yet been announced. The International Convention will be held August 3rd-8th at Red Lion Jantzen Beach in Portland, OR. The 2022 International Convention will be held Aug 10-14, 2022, in Kansas City, MO. Three chapters (The Vintage Thunderbirds of Kansas City, the Thunderbird Midwest chapter, and the Mid-Kansas Vintage Thunderbird Club) are combining forces to host this convention.
- Election for all National Officers of VTCI will occur in early 2021. Our current National President, Rod Wake, has served two terms; and according to the bylaws cannot serve again. Our current VP has chosen not to run again, so we will need to elect a new President and a new Vice President. Several regions (Northeast, North Central, Northwest, and Southwest) all need new regional directors; the South Central and the Southeast Regional Directors will be returning for another term. Nominations for National Officers are due the end of November.

Thank you, Brian, for keeping our club informed about our national organization. If you are not a VTCI member, please consider joining! Being part of a large international group of Thunderbird owners is really fun and, personally, Brad and I have made so many friends at the Regional and International conventions we have attended over the last 18 years. Other benefits of being a member of VTCI include receiving 6 issues of the award-winning publication, The Scoop, and having access to The Thunderbird Forum, which has a wealth of technical information. You can find out more about the VTCI and download a membership application from their website at

[http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/club\\_info.htm](http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/club_info.htm)

## Members Out and About

On the last Friday of October, three NTVT members (Dave Egan and John and Ginny Garfield) joined up with fellow Texans Dot and George Lang venturing to OK to go on a fall outing with ten members of the Sooner Thunderbird Club.

It was beautiful weather as the Thunderbirds made their way to Mena, AR, to travel the famous 53-mile Talimena Scenic Drive.



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## Out and About, Cont.

After breakfast on Saturday, the group caravanned to Talimena State Park to begin the Scenic Drive. Once in the park, they enjoyed the beautiful views, stopping for photos and time to socialize and stretch their legs. They arrived at the Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge where they found an ideal spot for their group photo. Then they finished, they caravanned the remaining 15 miles down steep inclines and through multiple S-curves. They ended in Mena, having lunch and enjoying each other's company before heading for home.

We look forward to more opportunities to get together with our Oklahoma friends in the future!



Editor's Note: A special thanks to Sherrie McNew, editor for the Sooner Club who gave me permission to use the information and pictures from their Oct-Nov issue of the Sooner News, their club newsletter. I'd like to acknowledge Paul Thomas, Cynthia Jesson, Betty Smith, and Dot Lang for providing the reports and pictures of the trip!



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## Hagerty's "Great Race" June 2021

While 2020 was filled with many cancellations and disappointments, 2021 promises some exciting opportunities for car enthusiasts. One of these events is the Annual Great Race, presented by the Hagerty's Drivers Club. 150 classic car owners have already signed up to participate, including the owners of a 1955 Thunderbird. What an awesome "rolling car show" this will be!

Starting in San Antonio on June 19, 2021, the Great Race will have rally points all along the route to the final destination on June 27th in Greenville, SC. Already sold out, you can still get on a waiting list if you would like a chance to enter this event; you can find it online at <https://www.greatrace.com/waitinglist>. The entry fee is \$6,000.

However, most of us would be content just viewing these cars, featuring models from all the decades of the last century from the teens through the early 1970's. The earliest model is a 1916 Hudson, and the latest a 1973 Camaro; in between are many great cars.

The Race will stop for the night in Temple, TX on the 19th and lunch the next day in Granbury; They will overnight in Ardmore, OK on the 20th. Perhaps we can plan a trip to see them at one of these stops, or simply meet along the route to cheer them on!

Visit These Websites:

NTVT

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

Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](https://www.facebook.com/NTVTThunderbirds)

VTCI, our Parent Club

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

The Thunderbird Registry

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

## NTVT 2020 Events Calendar

**Dec 6**

**Christmas Party Cancelled**

**Dec 12**

**T-Shirt Pickup; Outdoors Somewhere!**

**Location & Time TBA**

**Jan 16, 2021**

To be announced; **NOT at Tachitos, which has closed!**

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

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