



T Bird News

North Texas Vintage
Thunderbirds, Inc.
Local Chapter of VTCl

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August 31, 2021

The President's Message by Dave Egan

I have just returned from an event called "The Bird Bath" organized by our sister club in Colorado. Texas and Oklahoma also attended and it was a wonderful time. It may have been more appropriately named "Retro Roundup" because there were a lot of retros in attendance, but there were also some older cars there. All the club presidents were there and you know we had to compare notes. Jim and Regina will write more about the event and they will supply pictures of the activities that are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

I think it is a good thing that clubs are able to come together and show off their cars to each other without the pressure of a car show or being judged. It really becomes a car show when a flock of birds come together and people will always stop to look. It was a lot of fun! When we left, everyone promised that we would do it again. The Oklahoma group has an event on September 22 in in the Lawton, OK area in September. We are invited and that should be fun. I have already made my reservations. The next Bird Bath by the Colorado club will likely be in Deadwood, SD next year. Hopefully, this COVID thing will be under control by then and we can travel freely. More to come about plans for a NTVT event. In the meantime, be thinking about places you might like to go to and let me or one of the board members know.

Dave

Inside this issue:

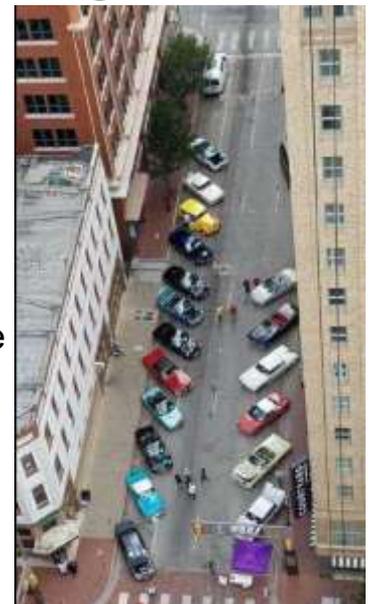
President's Msg	1
Sept Mtg Info	1
Aug Mtg Minutes	2
Oct Mtg Info	3
VTCl Int'l Convention Report & Pics	3-5
Rocky Mt BirdBath Report & Pics	6-7
NTVT Members on the Move	8
NTVT Calendar	9
Welcome New Members	9
Contact #'s	9

Wheels For Wellness....Rolling, Rolling, Rolling!

Saturday, September 18th is the date for the annual Wheels for Wellness event to be held in downtown Ft. Worth. The event organizers have said the event will go on in spite of the current uptick in Covid cases in our area. Since the event is outside, and we can maintain adequate social distance, we are good to go! After a year off, it will be so good to be there!

We expect detailed instructions from the organizers to arrive in the mail a couple of weeks before the event. Arrival time in the past has been about 8:00 a.m. and the show usually lasts until 2 or 3 p.m. when the awards are presented.

Due to a cancellation, there is one space open. If you have not preregistered but would like to display your car, give Tom Ossorio a call.





August Meeting Minutes by Brad Kershaw

Thirty-Four people attended the August meeting at Streetside Classics. Thanks to the Youngs for arranging the lunch.

Dave Egan opened the meeting welcoming everyone and recognizing new members Jim and Nancy Sasso. They have owned their red 2003 retro since 2008. Bubba Don Smith was not present but joined following the Yellow Rose Show where he displayed his 1963 hardtop. Shelli and Kevin Duane have also joined the club but could not attend today.

The Yellow Rose all Ford show was July 24-25. The club members who displayed all brought home awards. Bruce Davis (from Abilene w/Shane Lawrence), John & Cece Congleton (retro + Skyliner), Dave Egan (2 cars), Darrel Hesselius, Jim & Jan Young, Marian Herbst, Al & Barbara MacDonald, James Oglesby, and Bubba Don Smith all displayed cars.

The Cedar Creek Lake Chamber of Commerce show in Mabank was July 31st. Several members took home awards; John Congleton received best-of-show for his Skyliner, and the club earned the club participation trophy.

The VTCI international convention was August 3 – 8 at Jantzen Beach near Portland, Oregon. We have several members were planning to attend including John & Ginny Garfield, Al & Barbara MacDonald, and Leslie & Cookie Betts. They have promised to share pictures and a report on their return.

Jan Young announced plans for a cruise aboard the Carnival Dream from Saturday, March 26 to Sunday, April 3, 2022. The cruise plans to visit Key West, Freeport Bahamas, Half Moon Cay (Carnival's private island), and Nassau Bahamas. The cost is \$2489.84 per couple plus gratuities and insurance. Jan reported that she has two rooms left in the block she reserved. If you would like to go, contact Jan; she will need a deposit to lock in your room. One of the rooms may be taken already by the Sassos.

Michael Kluger's work assignment is coming to an end and he will be returning to Germany soon. He thanked the club for our hospitality and technical assistance. He will be taking his '63 convertible back to Germany with him to enjoy touring Europe. Michael insisted that we visit him if we are ever in Germany and promised to stop and see us if he is in the US again.

Dave went on to highlight upcoming events.

- The Rocky Mountain Tbirds will hold their annual "Bird Bath" in Amarillo this year August 20th – 23d. Dave Egan and a few others plan to attend, and we look forward to pictures for the next newsletter and website.

- The Wheels-For-Wellness show in downtown Fort Worth is scheduled for September 18th. The club reserved fifteen spaces to insure our street placement. There is one unclaimed space, and one was reserved by a member who will not be able to attend. If you would like to claim one of these spaces or add a space please contact Tom Ossorio, the club treasurer.

- There is a Washita Mountain cruise scheduled for October 22nd. If you are interested contact Jim Lowenberg or Dave Egan for more information.

Tech Tips:

Mark & Anita Ibbotson's retro spent the last two months in the shop from an electrical fire due to an off-brand fuse that did not protect the circuit. Upon its return from the shop they heard a rattle. After much searching, they found a nut in the muffler. Where could that have come from?

Dave Egan replaced the heater control valve in one of his retros. Be sure to tighten all the hose clamps, ask Dave why.

The door prizes were won by Mark Ibbotson and Pat Lilly.

The September meeting will be at the Wheels-For-Wellness show in Fort Worth.

Eloy Villafranca volunteered to host the October 16th meeting at his home in Grand Prairie. Please watch for more information closer to the meeting date.



BRING YOUR BOO BIRD IN OCTOBER

Don't be frightened—it's Halloween in Grand Prairie! Get an early start on the 16th with our Monthly NTVT meeting at Eloy and Kitty Villafranca's abode, err, ehmm, CEMETERY!! Check in at 11:30...you may NEVER CHECK OUT... Cause' it's a THRILLER...

More details in the next newsletter.

Editor's note: Thanks, Eloy and Kitty for your willingness to host us, and for this spooky teaser and picture! I can't wait!



On the Oregon Trail—**VTCI 2021 Int'l Convention**

By John Garfield

My wife and I had the privilege of attending our first nationwide (and beyond) thunderbird conference this year in Portland. The hotel, Red Lion Inn, was very adequate for the event. Service was good but due to covid, both attendance at the conference was down (no Canadian members allowed across the border) and hotel room service was a bit lacking. We had some very well prepared tours by the Northwest Vintage Thunderbird Club who did a great job organizing everything.

Having never been to Oregon, I was really interested in seeing the moun-



Mt. St. Helen



Mt. Hood

tains here and had two mountain tours that were very well organized. One was to Mount St. Helen (Wednesday) and the other was to Mt. Hood (Saturday). Both very rewarding. It was dramatic to see half the dome of Mt. St. Helen gone due to the eruption in early 1980. They said that the eruption spilled silt all over Portland that had to be swept up. On the tour of Mt. Hood, we went to about 9,000 ft. to the CCC-built ski lodge. Unfortunately, we had brought summer clothes due to the recent extreme high temperatures of the coast so we had to buy souvenir sweatshirts to keep warm.

Continued page 3



VTCI International Convention Report, continued

On Thursday we had two events, first was a tour of the old Hudson Bay Trading Company located on the other side of the Columbia River from our hotel and in the evening we had a great dinner cruise on the Columbia on an old river boat.



Hudson Bay Guest House

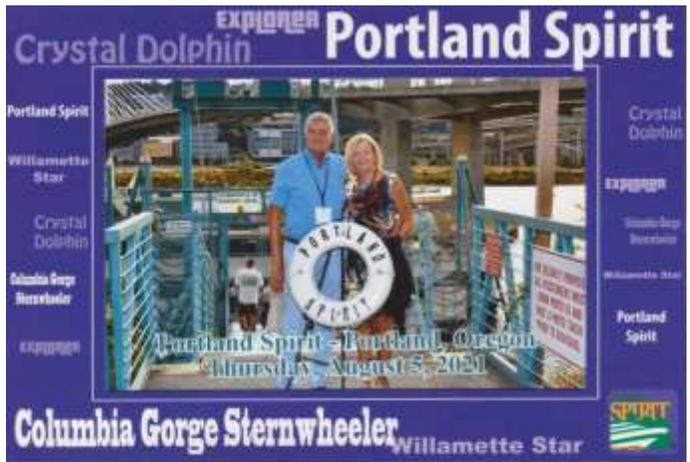


Hudson Bay fur trade

The Hudson Bay Company left the area in the early 1800 to Vancouver, removing all business from the US Territory. Interesting to hear how the traders got their furs and the various fur values at the time.

Thursday night was a dinner cruise on the Columbia River that I didn't bring my camera to, but it was a very nice time.

On to the car show. Friday was spent at the pool as we did not enter our Retro into judging. Saturday morning it rained and judging was being done under the hotel porte-cochere until it cleared. We had seven members from Texas (pretty good representation so far away) who either entered the judging or, like me, just posted their cars for viewing. Here are the ones I got pictures of:



Gerald & Cheryl Busald (San Antonio)



Brian and Marilyn Carron (San Antonio)



More from Portland



Lesley & Cookie Betts (Wichita Falls)



John & Ginny Garfield (Burlison)

The show was a little light with 44 entries, mostly from Washington, Oregon, and California with a few from as far east as Iowa. I didn't see many from east of the Mississippi. Of course, there were none from Canada.



Overview of the cars



Most unusual Car, this souped up Bird.

I didn't track the winners but there were some very good looking cars there. I have more pictures of some of the cars, too. Ask me if you would like to see them!

The dinner was good with a choice of chicken or salmon (of course). One unusual event was before dinner. A river boat cruise ship was docking at the hotel and everyone went out to see it. We got a show, too, as two women on board decided to disrobe and were clearly visible through their window as they undressed.

On Sunday morning we got our laundry done and headed for a tour of California driving down the coast of Oregon, seeing the great redwood trees of Northern California and onto Sacramento to visit the famous California Railroad Museum. That is a separate story but we stayed on a river boat in Sacramento – a unique experience.

Editor's Note: Thanks to John Garfield for the pics and story! Sounds like a great trip!



Rocky Mt Tbird Club Birdbath 2021

Don Reinke II, President of The Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club invited the Sooner Thunderbird group and the North Texas Vintage Thunderbirds to join them for their yearly BirdBath event. Laurie Sarno, the RMTC BirdBath event planner, created



a fantastic weekend. It looked like a retro event. However, Dave & Laurie Sarno in their '78 Thunderbird and Don Reinke in his 1996 Thunderbird added class to the group. Everyone was jealous of their trunk size. In attendance from our group was Jim and Regina Lowenberg

and Dave Egan along with his friend, Pearl Kinney. Dave Egan was awarded a trophy for driving the newest car, his 2005 Inca Gold Retro.

Friday, we arrived at the Comfort Inn on Highway 40 in Amarillo. It was a nice one and only one of two Comfort Inns in the United States that houses a lounge. We had a great time there Friday and Saturday nights. First night there, we ate at the famous Big Texan Steak Ranch. No one was up for the 72 oz. steak challenge. Barb Hendricks, RMTC Newsletter writer, carries a car mechanic gnome on all of their trips. He was seen at the hotel bar drinking a Bud Lite.

Saturday, we caravanned to Bill's Backyard Classics to view gorgeous high-end cars. Several were donated by famous people, like Bob Seger, the singer. Then it was off to Canyon, TX, for lunch at Feldman's Wrong Way Diner where the food was excellent. From there, we visited the Panhandle Museum, located at West Texas A&M University. The museum houses many displays from the Texas plains, including a 1916 Detroit Electric car and a model 66 Brougham, which contains 42 batteries. Half were in front and half in the rear of the car, which had a top speed of 21 miles per hour and ran 65-100 miles before needing recharging. An upper class means of transportation, these were manufactured from 1907 until 1938.





Birdbath, continued



Back in Amarillo, Laurie Sarno arranged for a food truck (Elements BBQ) for us at the hotel. It was the best food truck cuisine many of us had ever eaten. Later Saturday evening, we cruised 6th Avenue, the historic Route 66 road in Amarillo. The Historic 6th St on Route 66 Association hosted our group and provided prizes and gifts, including steel replica Route 66 badge signs via a drawing. A Texas full moon lit our way as we drove the famous Amarillo street.

Sunday, some of the group drove to Lubbock to visit the Silent Wing & Buddy Holly Museums. Terry and Pat Potter, Jim & Cecelia Merritt, both with the RMTTC along with Jim & Regina drove through the Palo Duro Canyon State Park. What an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon. Great fun was had by all.



Future plans are rumored for a BirdBath to be in Deadwood SD in 2022. Wouldn't that be a fun trip?

Editor's note: Thanks to Jim and Regina Lowenberg for sending the pics and this report on the BirdBath event.



On the Move...So Many Places, So Little Time!

While some NTVT members continue with the drudgery of day-to-day lives, working 9-5 at jobs or just spending our days maintaining our precious t-birds, some of our members are "On the Road Again!" We are glad they allow us to live vicariously through them by sharing their travel experiences with us! Even though their travels weren't in their Tbirds, you can bet automobiles were front and center in their plans.

Recently Marian Herbst and Rick Viera participated in a Mustang Stampede Dream Cruise from Dayton, Ohio, to Dearborn, MI, where over 600 Mustangs were on display. They met the daughter of Gale Halderman, who designed the Mustang in 1963, toured the Henry Ford Museum, and toured the assembly plant where Marian's 1956 T-bird was built; they found one nearly like her's on display there.

George and Laura Antochy covered a lot of miles this summer as well, on the Hot Rod Power Tour. The cruise began in Norwalk, OH, traveled through Dayton, OH, Indianapolis, IN, St. Louis, MO, and ended in Champaign, IL. They visited many interesting places in between and then took the long way home through TN. They spent 15 days on road, 73 hours behind the wheel, saw more cars than they could count, and covered over 3500 miles!

Thanks, all of you, for sharing your travels with us!



Above: Rick and Marian on the Mustang Stampede;
Below: George and Laura enjoying the sights (Casey, IL for the Minion; an vintage gas station in Bucyrus, and Sheriff Andy Griffith's car at the Mayberry Café.



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NTVT Calendar

Sep 18 7:30-3:00 Wheels for Wellness, downtown Ft Worth.

Oct 16 11:30 a.m. Meeting at the home of members Eloy and Kitty Villafranca. Details to come.

Nov Day Trip—exact date and location TBD

Dec 5 (Sunday) Christmas Party 4 p.m.—Salt Grass Steak House, Bedford.

Welcome New Members!

NTVT has been fortunate to welcome several new members lately! I would like to begin featuring some of our new members with pictures of them and their Thunderbirds so we can all get to know them a little better! If you have joined in 2020 or 2021, please send me a picture of yourselves and your thunderbird. Tell me a little of your story...what you would like the club to know. It could be where you live, where you came from, how you got started on this Thunderbird adventure, or anything you would like to share. Send pics and your notes to Bonnie, newsletter editor: bradandbonnie@yahoo.com

This month, we welcome Jim and Nancy Sasso, Shelli and Kevin Duane, and Bubba Don Smith! We know you will really enjoy this group!

August Meeting Pic



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NTVT

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Or check us out on Facebook:

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VTCl, our Parent Club

www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

The Thunderbird Registry

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