



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCl

Volume 18 Issue 9: Oct 30, 2021

October 30, 2021

## The President's Message by Dave Egan

Trick or Treat!! There are a lot of Trunk or Treat car events around North Texas and I hope that you could participate in one. I look forward to it every year because I like to see the little kids so excited by the costumes, or is it the candy?

A special thanks goes out to Eloy for hosting the October meeting. He went all out and I know we all appreciate the hospitality and the lunch. Thank You!

I received a note from a Thunderbird owner in San Antonio wanting to know the best way to ship a hard top. In my opinion, the best way to ship a hard top is to put it on a car and drive it where it needs to go. A few emails later a hard top relay was organized and the top found its way to a new home. It is so cool when people can come together to accomplish things like this and people who own Thunderbirds are good at it. It's also another opportunity to get out and drive your Thunderbird.

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## Ghoulish Pics from the October Meeting!





# More Members, And A Couple of Ghouls





## No Ghouls in This Flock of Birds





## NTVT Meeting Minutes for 16 October 2021

Twenty-Eight people attended the October meeting at the home of Eloy and Kitty Villafranca. A special thanks to the Eloy for arranging and picking up the tab for lunch.

Dave Egan opened the meeting welcoming everyone. Dennis Lilly could not attend so Pat brought their son Brent.

Walter and Delphine Martin were not available as Delphiene's mother had been involved in an auto accident. Delphiene also informed us that Ivan Torres sister passed away in Puerto Rico, and he has gone back for the funeral.

Ben King was also out of pocket for the meeting.

Bonnie provided an update on Dom and Susan Zanella. Dom is recovering well from his three heart bypasses. Susan injured both ankles and is still awaiting surgery on her neck [Dec]. Dom said he could feel the prayers and well wishes from all his Tbird friends.

The Wheels for Wellness show was September 18th. Several club members received awards. Tim and Brenda Stevens had to leave early so Dave presented them with their award for Best in Class, 1980 and up.

John Garfield gave a summary of his road trip and experience at the VTCl International convention. See the September newsletter for more detail on this.

Jan Young provided an update to the cruise scheduled for 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 original cost was \$2489.84 per couple plus gratuities and insurance. Jan reported that there are rooms available but the cost she locked in earlier was not guaranteed. If you would like to go, contact Jan; she will get you in touch with the travel agent.

Betsy reported that the Christmas party would be at the Saltgrass Steakhouse in Bedford on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Betsy noted that the room is larger than previous venues. As in the past the club will pick up the tab for dinner. Alcoholic beverages are available for individual purchase.

Dave asked for input on possible day cruises for November. Since the third Saturday conflicts with individual thanksgiving plans we have done a short day cruise earlier in the month. If you have any ideas that could be put together quickly contact Dave soon.

### Tech Tips:

Eloy damaged the plastic/metal inserts used to anchor the removable hardtop on the retro. He asked if anyone had parts sources or fixes for this. Several members with retros offered to look at the problem after the meeting and see if they could recommend a solution.

Steve Ward noted that the handling on his 02 retro was not as solid as one should expect for a car this size. Several members noted that they had replaced their strut assemblies with very good results. Brent Lilly noted that the Lillys had replaced the strut assemblies with units from Autozone/O'Reilly and the difference was very noticeable. Later models appeared to have better handling from the factory.

Submitted by Brad Kershaw, NTVT Secretary

## Another Retro Tech Tip

Retro owner and member Jim Sasso sent in another Tech Tip for Retro Owners after the last meeting. He says it is more of a cosmetic tip than a mechanical tip:

"When I wash the convertible roof, I use a minimal amount of soap. I rinse it with a back-and-forth sweeping motion, and not hard pressure. After the roof is dry (this was Nancy's idea, not mine) I take a lint-roller and roll it across the fabric to pick up loose lint etc. It really gives it an extra clean look!"



## Fall is here, Christmas holidays are near!

Your NTVT Christmas Party planning committee has been hard at work again. It's not very easy to find a central location to all our members, has a private room that holds up to 60 people, and is reasonably priced. But we always seem to deliver. Following are the details:

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, 2021  
Salt Grass Steakhouse  
1813 Highway 121  
Bedford, TX 76021



The club will pay for the meal for members in good standing (those who have paid their 2021 dues). You will choose from our limited menu, including tea, sodas, and coffee. Alcoholic beverages are available for your purchase at the bar. As in years past, we are asking anyone who wishes to make cookies/brownies etc. for dessert. If you are bringing dessert items, please wrap them individually (or in packets of 2) in plastic wrap so that they are easily gathered from a table.

If you are able, please bring donations of new shoes and/or socks for our charity: Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls (see the following article).

There will be an RSVP request in your emails after Thanksgiving. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls



We are working with a new charity this year. This organization is the largest humanitarian aid project from Buckner International ([www.buckner.org](http://www.buckner.org)) that provides new shoes and socks to orphans and vulnerable children in the United States and throughout the world. 20 percent of the shoes stay in the United States, offering hope to children in communities just like ours. Since 1999, Buckner has distributed more than 4 million pairs of new shoes and socks to children in 83 countries.

I asked if there were specific sizes/types of shoes or socks, and received the following information:

*We accept shoes of all sizes for boys and girls (including adult sizes). If you are wanting to provide a suggested size range, we suggest buying boys, sizes 1-5, or girls, sizes 4-5. We typically see more girls shoes donated than boys, so there is a larger need for boys shoes. All of the shoes that we distribute need to be closed toe shoes, such as tennis shoes or canvas shoes.*

They are very excited that we are joining them in their effort this year.



## Fair Winds and Calm Seas—NTVT Cruise on Carnival

Hi Everyone,

We currently have 21 people who have signed up to go on our 2022 Carnival Bahamas cruise. We can probably get a couple more rooms if we have anyone interesting in going with us. Here's the information about the trip.

- **Carnival Dream**
- **Saturday, March 26 to Sunday, April 3, 2022** (8 days, 7 nights)
- Ports of Call: Key West, Freeport Bahamas, Half Moon Cay (Carnival's private island), and Nassau Bahamas
- Departs from Galveston
- We will receive \$100 on-board ship credit per cabin
- Most of us have reserved a balcony room but if you want something different, I can get the price for you.

Here's a list of who is going:

John and Ginny Garfield	Tom and Sherrie Ossorio
Ralph and Betsy Haber	Bob and Betty Pickard
Darrell and Theresa Hesselius	Tim and Brenda Stephens
Dan Hubert and Ania Rust	Bill Stepina
Mark and Anita Ibbotson	Jim and Janet Young
Brad and Bonnie Kershaw	



If you are interested in going with us, please let me know as soon as possible so I can get you signed up. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

Janet Young      214-549-1558      [memepops1970@yahoo.com](mailto:memepops1970@yahoo.com)

## 1966 Thunderbird Parts For Sale—NEW & USED

**CONTACT RICK @ 682.216.5977 or OR EMAIL: [rix66bird@gmail.com](mailto:rix66bird@gmail.com)    pics available on request**

QNTY/	PART DESCRIPTION/	N or U/	COND/PRICE
1	HOOD w/ NOSE CHROME	USED	GOOD \$350
1	LEFT FRONT FENDER	USED	GOOD \$150
1	RIGHT FRONT FENDER	USED	GOOD \$150
1	DRIVER SIDE DOOR SHELL	USED	GOOD \$150
1	PASSENGER SIDE DOOR COMPLETE w/GLASS	USED	GOOD \$200
1	HEADLIGHT DOOR ASSEMBLY - PSGR SIDE	USED	GOOD \$50
1	FRONT BUMPER	USED	FAIR \$75
1	OEM RIGHT FRONT (PSGR) BUMPER BRACKET & SUPPORT	USED	GOOD \$45
1	OEM 2" FRONT STAINLESS NOSE TRIM	USED	FAIR \$25
2	OEM FENDER SKIRTS - AQUA	USED	GOOD \$200
4	OEM 66 TBIRD 15" SPINNER WHEEL COVERS	USED	GOOD \$260
4	T-BIRD LOGO RUBBER FLOOR MATS - AQUA	NEW	\$40
1	OEM REBUILT FoMoCo 4-BBL CARB (C6SF_A/C6CC)	USED	REBUILT \$350
1	OEM FoMoCo DISTRIBUTOR CMPLT (C6AF-12127-6AD)	USED	GOOD \$100
1	FLEX PLATE - 184 TEETH (FE352/390) (V-7D3898-184N)	USED	GOOD \$25
2	FRONT ROTORS	NEW	\$130
2	REAR BRAKE DRUMS	NEW	\$250
2	SETS REAR BRAKE SHOES	NEW	\$25
2	REAR LEAF SPRINGS w/ RUBBER BUSHING KIT	NEW	\$300
2	SWAY BAR BUSHINGS TAPCO B54935	NEW	\$25
2	FRONT KICK PANELS - AQUA	NEW	\$25
2	OEM REAR ARM RESTS AQUA	USED	GOOD \$35
2	VENT WINDOW RUBBER SEAL WEATHERSHIP - TAPCO B21448/9C	NEW	\$25
2	TIMKEN REAR WHEEL BEARINGS - (4131/245581) 514003	NEW	\$15
2	TIMKEN REAR WHEEL SEALS - 51098 (53893/83617)	NEW	\$15
2	TIMKEN FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS - LM48548 / LM48510 (200805/22)	NEW	\$5
2	TIMKEN FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS -M12649-M12610 (200805/22)	NEW	\$10
2	TIMKEN FRONT WHEEL SEALS -9150-S (53893/83784)	NEW	\$8



## Thunder in Lawton!

The Sooner Thunderbird club hosted an event in Lawton, Oklahoma on October 22 and 23. There were 9 retros and 17 people attending. 3 cars were from Texas: I represented NTVT, Dot and George Lang came from Big D Little Birds, and Andrea and Steve were from the South Texas Thunderbird Club. The rest of the group was from the Sooners club.

The Texas group met in Decatur to caravan to Anadarko, Oklahoma where we visited the National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians. It was a small but very well done museum and the local chamber of commerce came out to take pictures of the group.



From there we went to the Fort Sill National Cemetery (above) to pay our respects to our fallen military.

Then, we continued on to Meers Store and Restaurant where we enjoyed hamburgers from long horn cows. If you ever have the opportunity, give it a try. Very good burgers and excellent service, though the building leans a little. Great Place!

Then, we went to the Wichita Wildlife Refuge where we saw everything from prairie dogs to buffalo. In the refuge is The Holy City. It has a beautiful church and grounds and is well worth a visit.



We spent the remainder of the afternoon at Mt Scott.

It has a road that winds around the mountain, then 360 degree views when you reach the top. Quite spectacular and not what you would expect in the flat plains of Oklahoma. Then, on to the hotel and dinner where we talked about the events of the day. After dinner, we took over the hotel lobby for game night.

Morning found us at Comanche National Museum and Cultural center. It was also very well done. I found it to be very interesting. Then, we traveled to the Mattie Beal house in Lawton. The newspaper from Lawton found us there and wrote a story about the Thunderbirds and the people who drive them.

We went to The Old Plantation Restaurant in Medicine Park for lunch before heading for home. Another great place to eat and Medicine Park is worth a trip all on it's own.

As a part of this event we performed a hard top relay, moving a retro hardtop from the seller in San Antonio to the buyer in Tulsa.



Editor's Note—thanks, Dave, for submitting this article. These combined club activities are great opportunities to make new friends! Hopefully, we will have more opportunities in the future.



## Balloons Aloft—High Flyers That Aren't Birds

On a recent Saturday evening, Marian Herbst and Rick Viera joined fellow NTVT club members Mark and Anita Ibbotson in a real adventure—a hot air balloon Glow at the Pumpkin Palooza Festival in Corinth, TX. Marian reports that Mark and Anita have been flying hot air balloons for 29 years, and they just recently returned from the world-famous Hot Air Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, NM. Marian says the evening of this local festival was wonderfully cool, and all the balloons looked great. She and Rick really enjoyed Mark and Anita's hospitality. If you would like to have the chance to see these balloons up close, just ask Mark and Anita to let you know what opportunities their balloon season schedule offers! The Ibbotson balloon, with the Snoopy on it, is shown to the right. Look closely and you can see Mark, Anita, Rick, and Marian! Thanks, Marian, for sending us the pics and the story!



### NTVT Calendar

**Nov** Day Trip—exact date and location TBD

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



## The Bird's Journey Begins! by Michael Kluger

As many of you know, I just moved back to my native Germany. The timing of this was in the end truly driven by when my 62 convertible would finally come back from the shop. Unbelievably, it had been sitting there since mid January (!) and the work had dragged on and on. On top of that, Bennett Motor Werks – who had the car the whole time – managed to cause an accident in their shop at end of July when the car “slipped into reverse” and jumped backward with the driver’s side door open. I may make a “story” of this with some pictures if anyone is interested... Fixing the damage that they caused cost over \$8500 (obviously on them), but the main issue was that the incredibly ineffective communication with their insurance caused this to drag on for another 2 months.

Today, though, I wanted to report that I finally got the car back on Tuesday, Oct. 5th (after I paid an invoice more than 60% OVER the original estimate and after Bennett had to fix multiple defects at the very last minute), drove it that evening for about 120 miles (and loved every yard of it), before it was picked up by truck the next morning, Oct. 6th. In the pictures, you see the Bird, my silver 2000 Mercedes SL600 and my friend Joerg’s red 2000 Mercedes SL500. These 3 cars are now in a container and on their way to Germany – expected to arrive at the port in Bremerhaven on November 12th. And, yes, you WILL get pictures once the Bird is registered in Germany and on the road on this side of the pond.

All the best to y'all and thanx to Bonnie for keeping the newsletter alive!





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## Bob McNeill - A "New" Face

### Serving the VTCI



Last September, I put my name forward as a candidate for Vice President; obtaining required qualifying petitions and signatures to submit to the VTCI's Board of Directors for their approval. Upon receiving confirmation from the Board in October, I began assuming my duties.

The VP's job is essentially focused on administrative and support tasks as outlined in the VTCI's Bylaws (Section 3.04.200); coordinating with Regional Directors and Chapters on insurance and helping to establish regional and international conventions.

In stepping into a role so capably filled by Ed Elzinga for the past eight years, I quickly realized to succeed, one cannot simply continue his example of dedication and service to the VTCI. A new VP must "advance the ball" - keeping the VTCI moving forward; responding to our historic challenges and addressing those issues which will inevitably arise to compete for our attention and resources.

To that end, I offer nearly 35 years of management experience in urban planning, research, capital budgeting and grant administration in the public sector, along with commercial, industrial, and institutional development consulting on over 120 projects for private clientele from Georgia to Alaska. I have also helped to coordinate national professional conventions (APA and URISA) in multiple cities and three highly successful VTCI events (Elgin IL 2001, Chicago IL 2010, and Seattle WA 2012). And I served as the VTCI's Executive Secretary from 2010 thru 2013.

But perhaps more importantly, I understand and appreciate the effort and commitment exhibited by Thunderbird enthusiasts in restoring their vehicles, and the time spent organizing regional and international conventions. The "T-Birds" remain central to the VTCI, but I see the members and their families as the heart of this club and serving them is what drove this decision. While giving my best effort over the next few years, I hope to never disappoint them.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and myself, a word of thanks to Ed Elzinga for his efforts to keep the VTCI's agenda at the forefront of America's roster of automotive enthusiasts. Thunderbirds are an American automotive classic and worthy of our efforts to preserve each and every "Bird" for future generations. For his part, Ed succeeded; my goal is to improve on his success.

**Editor's Note:** The VTCI is our parent club; our regional director, Brian Caron, says the club still needs a candidate to fill the position of President as Rod Wake, current pres., is unable to run again. If you are interested, contact any NTVT officer for information.

### 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/>