



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCl

Volume 22 Issue 3: Mar 2025

Mar 31, 2025

## Birding with John

I write articles for my model railroad club using Travels with John describing trips, model railroad layouts, events, etc. that I have attended. So, I thought I would do the same here for the newsletter.

First, let's thank Janet for her commitment to the club, her great adventures, and of course her leadership. The club cannot exist without this leadership; and I hope to fill her shoes, as they say, with my much bigger feet.

To start, let's review what is happening for those who did not make it to the last meeting. I had great plans to represent the club at the international convention of combined Thunderbird Clubs this year here in Grapevine. As many of you may know, our church is sponsoring a tour about the travels of St. John through Greece and Turkey in September at the same time as our convention. I studied ancient Greek and Roman architecture in college some 55 years ago and always wanted to go see these great ruins. A few years ago we got to tour Italy from Venice to southern Italy and saw some great sites and the most beautiful churches. As an Architecture student I marveled at the craftsmanship of these great structures for the time period they were built and cannot pass up the opportunity to see the great predecessor designs of Greece, let alone the history behind such a tour. It is unfortunate that it occurs at the same time as our convention, but you can guess what wins out. I fully trust in the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, Brad Kershaw, to lead us there. I try to monitor all the meetings and Zooms by Brian Carron, who is doing a great job organizing this. At the end of this tour we will take a couple days to fly to Egypt and see the pyramids and Cairo. Another architectural wonder.

I will make our trip to Canada in August. If you have not signed up, please do, there may be spaces available, although the accommodations may not be priced as they were at the beginning. Several of us plan to arrive in Boston a day early and take a walking tour of the historic sites and, of course, Old Ironside. Being a former Navy guy (sad story there) I have to see the USS Constitution. I have not been to Boston since I was about 5, and I have no memory of it; so it will be all new to me. Thanks again to Janet for setting all this up. She has done a great job of this in the past and I am sure this will equal those endeavors.

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## Birding with John, continued

Now, on to new stuff. As you know our next meeting is in Burleson at Antonios Mexican Restaurant. Few restaurants have separate meeting rooms but Antonios has a very nice one. I guess it's fortuitous that my first full meeting is in my backyard but I invite you all to attend. Don't forget that this meeting is a week earlier than normal because of the Easter Holiday weekend on our normal meeting Saturday. After our lunch, I invite you to attend the real downtown of Burleson. We have several blocks of great shops and restaurants. I encourage you to check out the little ice cream store opened last year and have some New Zealand ice cream. I don't know what is special about it other than it tastes damn good. We enjoy it because it reminds us of our daughter who lives in Christchurch, New Zealand. We also enjoy Texas Brewing Company. It's a lot of fun to sit in the open air of the street on a Sunday afternoon and enjoy one of their great burgers or some nachos. On Friday nights in June there is an open air band at the stage in front of City Hall that is free with a great culminating fourth event of concert and fireworks in the City Athletic Complex. Down the street from the Brewing company is a new restaurant called Station 330 after the old train station in Burleson. It has a railroad theme that inspires me. I was to build a small layout for them as they were building it but those plans got dismissed. Still nice to sit inside or out and enjoy great margaritas.

I know it is early to think about scheduling for 2026, but I have discussed a possible road trip next year and it has been suggested that we look at a Route 66 trip. 2026 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great highway. I have done a little research and have picked a few points of interest, mostly in Arizona, but a few in New Mexico and Texas, too. I think the best time for such a trip is in May or early June when the air is cooler and the spring flowers are out in the desert. A week or 10 day trip would be a lot of fun. Just think about it for now but it takes nearly a year of planning and reservations to be successful, so we cannot delay if the group is interested.

As to the upcoming meetings, check the calendar in the newsletter, plan your attendance, and we will see you there. Also, don't forget, we need lots of volunteers for the upcoming International Convention in September, so please see what times and events you can commit to; and see Brad to sign up. This is a great opportunity to show off our great place and a great opportunity to enjoy the company of others from around the world.



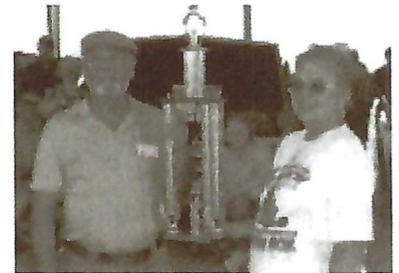
## April 12th Next Meeting—Special 2nd Saturday Mtg

Join us at Antonio's Mexican Restaurant at **344 SW Wilshire Blvd K, Burleson, TX 76028**. Lunch begins at 11:30. It's easy to find. Take I35W south from I30 or I20. Use exit 36 from I35W to get on Hwy 174/Wilshire. Antonio's will be on the right side at the back of a shopping center a little past the 4th stop light, just after Tractor Supply.



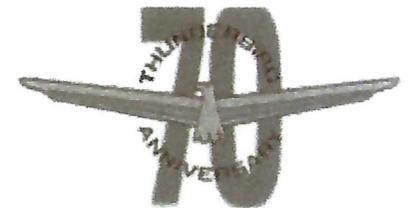
## Cedar Creek Car Show—May 3rd

If you plan to attend the Cedar Creek Car Show and Crawfish Boil in Maybank, please let Dominic Z know ASAP! You also need to call the Chamber of Commerce at 903-887-3152 to register with a credit card. Cost is \$20. Be sure to tell them you are with the NTVT T-Bird club so that you will get a space under the pavilion. Arrive by 9 a.m. at the Mabank Pavilion, 483 Easley Pkwy, Mabank, TX 75147. If enough of us go, we might win the club participation trophy again!



## Thunderbird Appreciation Day!—RSVP by May 1st!

**May 18th, 2025** is National Thunderbird Appreciation Day. Join us between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Sonic Drive in at 201 West NW Hwy Grape vine Tx 76051. This Sonic has been redone and has nice modern restrooms and the manager will set aside spaces for 30 cars that day. This will be a joint activity with the Big D-Little Bird Club from Dallas, and it will be a great time to make some new friends before the combined convention in September. Let's have a great turnout, and we might even get a good group picture to send to the Scoop. Let's show the public our beautiful birds, and let them appreciate them, too! Email Marian at hhmj@gmail.com to let her know you can join us.



Thunderbird Appreciation Day

May 18th, 2025





## March 15th Meeting Minutes

Thirty-two members and guests attended the meeting at The Real Texas Cafe in Euless. Thanks to Mary for coordinating with the restaurant.

Janet opened the meeting with a welcome to all the regular members. Janet thanked the club and officers for their support over the last year as president.

Janet opened the election portion of the meeting by asking if anyone would like to place their name for 1st Vice President. Hearing no response, Janet asked for a motion to place Brad's name for election to that position. The motion was made and seconded. Janet called for a show of hands approving the election of John as president and Brad as vice-president. The members present approved by a unanimous vote.

Since Brad was elected as vice president, Janet called for someone to volunteer to take over his former duties as secretary. Becky agreed to step into the position of secretary. This involves taking notes at meetings and emailing these to Bonnie for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Bonnie announced that Mark, the webmaster, has asked to be replaced so he can focus on responsibilities with his family. Steven has agreed to step into this roll. You can submit pictures and other information for the website to the link noted in the newsletter.

Bonnie asked the members to pass on information to her about car shows in their areas that others may want to attend. She will include this information in upcoming newsletters.

Brad Kershaw reported on planning for the 2025 International Convention in September.

Brad passed around a sign-up sheet developed by Brian Carron, the VTCI South Central Regional Director.

Brad emphasized that the NTVT needs a strong showing of support since it is in our local area, and since it has been 10 years since we last hosted a regional convention. Book your rooms now as the available rooms are nearly taken.

The numbers of people selecting various excursions will affect convention planning. We will need 75 cars to get the current price for laps at Texas Motor Speedway. Registration affects the number of buses required for other tours. As of March 4th, there were only 24 registrations.

You can go to [vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net) to download the registration form. There are two forms for registration: VTCI member and non-member. Primarily for insurance purposes the form will require you to become a member of the international organization VTCI. You can register for the convention with or without your car.

If you have any questions please contact Brad or George and we will be glad to get you answers.

George gave an update on the Yellow Rose car show. The show is the 8th to the 10th of August, with car check-in the 8th. The show is being held at the north hall of Dallas Market Hall. The theme this year is "70 years of Thunderbirds." They would like to have every



## March Meeting Minutes, continued

generation of T-bird included in the display. At this time 1967 to 1990's are needed. Electronic registration is now open at [yellowrosecarshow.com](http://yellowrosecarshow.com). Contact George or James Oglesby if you intend to register.

Russ noted that he had more information on the vacuum leak codes showing on the retros. Several people indicated that they had cars for sale, including a 66 Landau, 62 Roadster, and 2002 convertible. If you are interested contact Brad and he will get you a contact number.

Door prizes were won by Regina, Dave, and Jim. Richard won the 50/50.

Submitted by Brad Kershaw, NTVT Secretary

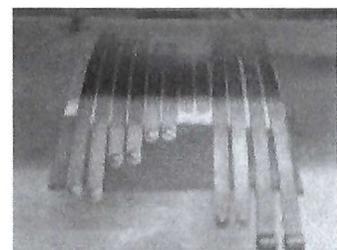
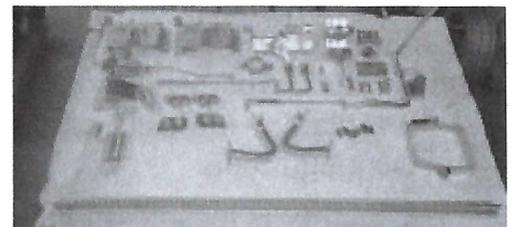
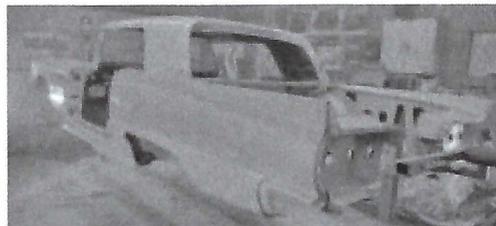
## Yellow Rose 2025 Featuring 70 Years of Thunderbirds

Online Registration is available now for the 34th Annual All-Ford Yellow Rose Classic Car Show, Southwest All Ford Nationals to be held August 9-10 at Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N Stemmons Freeway, Dallas Texas, 75207. Go to this link to register your car:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnVJUmu4Y6OjppmlSyx\\_rp8iiYNI2Aw8zC3Odqnj3uVChajA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnVJUmu4Y6OjppmlSyx_rp8iiYNI2Aw8zC3Odqnj3uVChajA/viewform) Payment can be by credit card or Paypal online. You can also mail a check, payable to NTMC and mailed to PO Box 531374, Grand Prairie, TX 75053. Please complete your entry by emailing 2 photos of your vehicle to [yellowroseclassic@ntmc.org](mailto:yellowroseclassic@ntmc.org), for review.

Set up will be Friday, August 8th; your car must remain on the show floor from Aug 8th until the close of show on Sunday, August 10th. The show will be open to the public on Saturday 10am - 9pm, Sunday 10am - 6pm. Spectators can download discount coupons from the NTMC website. If you have questions, email George Antochy at [gantochy@yahoo.com](mailto:gantochy@yahoo.com)

## A work in Progress—Update on Rosie!

NTVT member Larry Gunnel sent some pictures to update us on the progress of his 1960. He hopes to have Rosie completed and back to Texas by this August, 2025. Larry, we hope you register for the Joint VTCI and CTCI International Convention to show Rosie off properly!





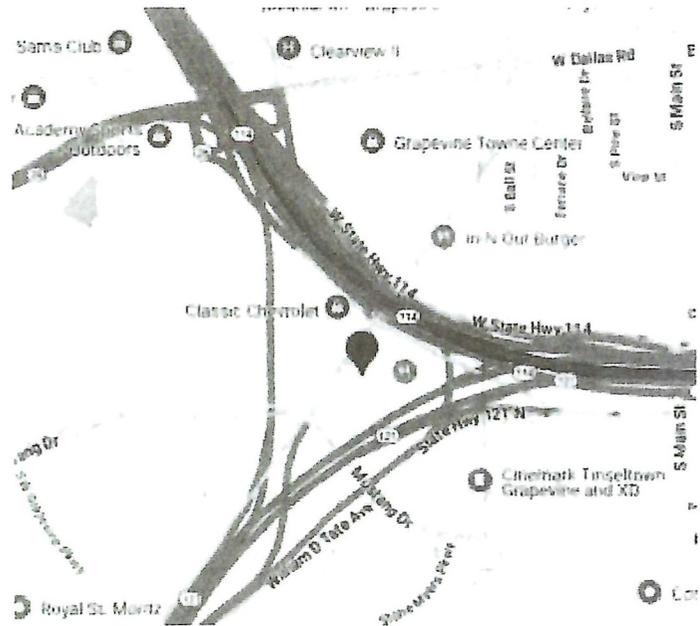
## May 17th Meeting—Change in Location!

Our *May 17th meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Original Pancake House, 1505 William D Tate, Grapevine, TX.*

Watch your email early in May so you can RSVP by Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

Note that this location is a change from our original calendar, and the time is 30 minutes earlier than usual.

See you there!

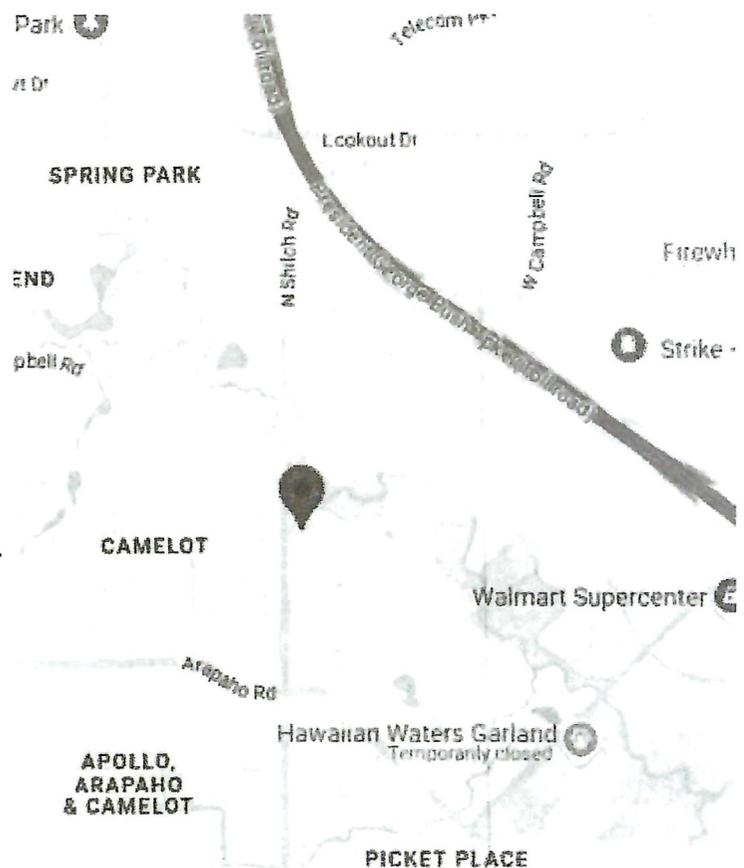


## June 7th Memory Care Car Show & Lunch

Here is our chance to make some older folks really happy by showing our cars (HaHa—I love to say that like I’m not old!) at Grand Brook Memory Care, 5600 N Shiloh Rd, Garland, TX 75044. 10 a.m. to 1 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

This is their annual Father’s Day celebration with a hamburger lunch for the patients, their families, and for us. It’s a pleasant way to spend a day, and the patients really enjoy seeing the cars. So email Tom Ossorio at [tcossorio@gmail.com](mailto:tcossorio@gmail.com) to let him know you can join the group. He will need to notify the administrator (who happens to be Sheri’s sister!) how many will be attending so there will be enough food.

The facility is located on N Shiloh Rd. between Campbell Rd. and Arapahoe Rd., just south of Pres. Geo. Bush Toll Rd.





## A Drive To Remember-Indoor Car Show-Longview

Don't forget, if you are planning to attend the indoor car show in Longview on July 20th, you need to connect with Marian Herbst and make sure you have all the information you need to caravan to East Texas on Friday, July 18th, starting at 8 am at Chick-Fil-A at 3970 S. Carrier Pkwy in Grand Prairie, Tx 75052 (exit 456 on I20). The group plans to spend two nights in Longview and will meet for a special Italian dinner on Saturday evening after the show.

The show, a benefit for the East TX Alzheimer's Alliance, will be held at 100 Grand Blvd, Longview, TX 75604, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 19th (note: if you are traveling to this show, you will miss the regularly scheduled July NTVT meeting; just be sure to catch up on upcoming convention information if you miss this meeting.).

Marian and Rick have attended this show in the past and really enjoyed it. If you attend this year, we hope you will enjoy it also and send pictures back for the rest of us!

## Joint VTCI & CTCI Convention Is Coming!

If you have not yet registered for the upcoming International Convention of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (our parent organization) combined with the CTCI International Convention, ***you need to do that ASAP***. The convention will happen September 9-13, at the North Grapevine Embassy Suites.

Book your rooms directly with the hotel (972-724-2600) or use the following updated booking link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/all-thunderbird-club-2/>. ***Please note the change in the Booking Code! New reservations must use booking code 92R.*** The initial room rate for this event was \$159 per night; the new booking code shows a different amount (\$179 per night), but there will be an adjustment at checkout so that all attendees will pay only \$159 per night, thanks to a generous and anonymous event sponsor. Ask the desk clerk to check the All Thunderbird Group Notes if there is any question at checkout about this adjustment.



If you have never attended an International Convention, you are in for a treat. These events offer so many opportunities to meet other fun Thunderbird owners—we don't just sit at the hotel for 4 days! There are lots of things going on!

Remember, registration for the Convention is separate from booking your hotel room. Go to the VTCI Events Page, and choose the registration form applicable to you (VTCI member or Non-Member). Print off the Registration form, fill it out, and mail it in. (*Note the booking code shown on that form has been changed. See hotel info above.*) **Mail in deadline for the event is August 12th**, but don't wait! ***Send in your registration forms ASAP, please!*** And be sure to visit the VTCI [website](#) and check out the full schedule of activities before you fill out the form as there are details about all the scheduled activities online. There will be opportunities for several tours including a tour of AT&T Stadium on Wednesday, a choice between driving tour to TX Motor Speedway or a coach trip to the George Bush Presidential Library in Dallas on Thursday afternoon, a coach trip to the Dallas Arboretum on Friday (for those not involved in the Concours Judging), and a Saturday driving tour featuring a stop at the Sam Pack Automobile Collection, followed by lunch and a visit to the Amos Minter Restoration



## VT CI & CT CI Convention Info, Continued

facility.

Of course, there will be ample free time to explore Historic Grapevine (via the shuttle that stops directly in front of the hotel Wednesday through Saturday!) and enjoy the great restaurants and shopping there. We will have two “on our own” dinners Wednesday and Thursday evenings) in addition to the All-Thunderbird Party and buffet, with a cash bar available, that will be held Friday evening, and the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

There will also be interesting seminar sessions to attend, one featuring “TBird Bob” Sinickas for a RetroBird Technical Program, at 5 pm on Wednesday, and one featuring acclaimed author and Thunderbird Collector, Dr. Steve Legel, on “The Greying of The Classic Car Hobby” at 5 pm on Thursday. There will also be an early morning swap meet on Saturday morning from 7-9 a.m. Bring your parts to swap!

You can tell, there will be plenty of things to do and see, including the many beautiful Thunderbirds on the show field. Be sure to tell all your friends to come out to see the cars on display! We want the world to see and appreciate All Thunderbirds!

## How Can YOU Help The Convention?

First of all, register to attend the convention. You may choose to register your T-bird for Concours judging, or just put it in display. Or you can register to attend without bringing your T-bird.

Second, to help defray the costs, please consider donating items for the Silent Auction. These do not have to be automotive related, but they can be. Send an email to [vtcicountrystore@gmail.com](mailto:vtcicountrystore@gmail.com) telling them what you plan to bring, attaching a couple of pictures of your donated items to let them know what to expect. Please CC Brad Kershaw to that email as well.

Third, sign up to help by working a shift at the convention. We need people to help with the registration desk, to greet people in the hospitality room, decorate for the banquet, etc. In the email delivering this newsletter, you will find positions and times still needing volunteers. Please check it out and email Brad ([thunderbrad@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderbrad@hotmail.com)) to let him know what you can do! It's a fun way to get to know more Tbird owners and make new friends.

## A Short Guide to VT CI Judging, by Brad Kershaw

There are many members of the NTVT who have never participated in conventions or the judging aspect of a convention. I will try to provide a short summary of the different judging divisions. Since this information is for the novice, I will not elaborate on the “Senior” designation other than to note it pertains to the car not the owner.

VT CI judging is designed to evaluate an automobile's adherence to a set of “Original Factory Specifications.” The OFS are available for years 1955-1966 through the VT CI country store. The other years rely on judging by people knowledgeable on that series of Tbird. I have hard copies of some of the OFS volumes if you have questions on what is “original”. The divisions are described in more detail in the Concours Rules available through the VT CI country store. In all but the display division there are 1st, 2nd, and 3d places based on a point system. For example, there could be several cars in each place.



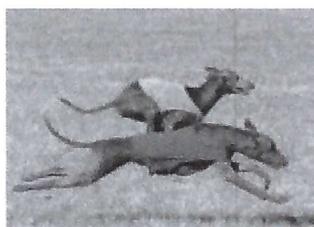
## Summary of Judging, continued

- **Display:** In this category cars are not judged against a standard but will only be voted on by the convention participants for how they are displayed. This can be cleanliness and any extra display materials.
- **Primary:** This division is the most detailed examination of the 1955-1979 Tbird. This division is for the individual interested in obtaining "Senior" status of their Tbird. The general categories are fit & finish, Interior, engine compartment, trunk, and undercarriage. This detail includes the paint color and accessories it left the factory with down to the size and type of tires (bias-ply).
- **Touring:** This division allows modifications for safety and drivability. The undercarriage is not judged. All other aspects of the primary division apply.
- **Driver (1955-79):** This division is still judged on the OFS but the engine compartment, trunk and undercarriage are not judged. The majority of Tbirds driven to the regular meetings fall into this division. Note the 02-05 Tbirds are not included in this division.
- **Late model 1980-97:** All areas judged as in Primary
- **Modified (1955-97):** All areas judged but modifications are judged for quality and craftsmanship.
- **2002-05:** This series of Tbird is judged based on knowledge of the judging team, however, the undercarriage is not judged.
- **Modified 2002-05:** This series of Tbird is judged based on knowledge of the judging team, however, the undercarriage is not judged. Any modifications are judged on quality and craftsmanship.

I hope this short explanation helps in choosing your division on the registration form. We may have a sample judging session at an upcoming meeting to further explain modification and other common deductions.

## New Breed Accepted by AKC in Honor of Ford T-Birds

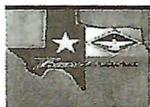
There are over 340 breeds of domestic dogs in the world, and the American Kennel Club accepts 200. These dogs, just like our beautiful Thunderbirds, are shown and judged according to standards set by the AKC.



It was announced today that a new breed of dog has been accepted by the AKC. Called the Phoenix Americanus (American Thunderbird), it honors the iconic cars created by Ford from 1955 to 2005. It has (like all thunderbirds) sleek lines and a great capacity for speed. It most commonly has a Golden Aztec Coat, but can be bred in Classic Turquoise or Dusty Rose. It is expensive, but aren't all good things?? At a standard height of 16 inches, their diminutive stature allows them to fit comfortably in

any T-bird, even your Retro!

Note: Today is April 1. **APRIL FOOL'S!** This dog is actually a Cirneco dell'Etna.



# NTVT Calendar for 2025

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & Other Activities for 2025

MONTH	Date	Area	SUGGESTED	Host-Volunteer
*April	12**	SW	Antonios, Burleson	Bonnie Kershaw
**date change due to Easter on April 19				
May	3	SE	Mabank Car Show	Dominic Zanella
*May	17	N	Original Pancake House in Grapevine	Mary Brewer
May	18	C	T-Bird Appreciation Day Sonic in Grapevine	Marian Herbst
*June	21	C	Spring Creek, Bedford	Janet Young
June	28	E	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Party, Farmersville	Walter & Delphiene Martin
*July	19	C	Logan's, N Richland Hills	Mary Brewer
July	18-20		Longview Trip/Car Show	Marian Herbst
August	8-10	E	Yellow Rose, Dallas Mkt Hall	George Antochy
*August	16	E	La Bella, Garland	Walter & Delphiene Martin
August	16-23		Boston/Holland Cruise	Janet Young
September	9- 13	N	VTCI/CTCI Int'l, Grapevine	Kershaw/Young
*Sept 20		W	Wheels For Wellness, FW	Tom Ossorio
*October	18	S	Eloy's Halloween Mtg	Eloy & Kitty Villafranca
November	1 or 8		Day Trip-Destination T B A *Daylight savings time ends	James Oglesby
*November	15	N	T B D	Mitch Womble
December	7	C	Saltgrass-Bedford	Betsy Haber
January	17	W	Streetside Classics	T B D

\*Normal monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. All dates subject to change.

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### Officers 2025

**President:**

John Garfield  
682-312-5733  
j-g.garfield@att.net

**1st Vice President (Events):**

Brad Kershaw  
817-253-3161  
thunderbrad@hotmail.com

**Secretary:**

B. Davis

**Treasurer:**

Tom Ossorio  
817-705-9106  
Tom.Ossorio@dsisolutions.biz

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bonnie Kershaw  
817-271-2952  
bradandbonnie@yahoo.com

**Website Editor:**

Stephen Lascola

**PLEASE**

**Visit These Us Online:**

NTVT:

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

Or on Facebook at:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](#)

**Also, Visit**

VTCl, our Parent Club :

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

Or on Facebook at:

Vintage Thunderbird Club Int'l

The Thunderbird Registry

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

## Birds Out and About in March



On March 22nd, Jon Pierracos took his bodacious blue bullet bird to the Opal Lawrence Historical Park in Mesquite for a car show and a tour of the historic farmhouse built in the 1870's.

On the same day, Marian Herbst's beautiful baby bird took 3rd Place, Best of Show at the Windsong Ranch Car Show in Prosper, TX. The trophies, created on a 3-D printer, featured a Mustang, which Marian found ironic!



## Cars and Parts—For Sale Or Wanted

**For Sale**—1965 Convertible, black. Call John Garfield at 682-312-5733 for more info.

**Needed:** One set of old struts—if you have your Retro struts replaced, please ask your mechanic to give you the old ones. Then email Brad K ([thunderbrad@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderbrad@hotmail.com)); he needs them for a mystery project!

*If you have cars or parts for sale or that you need, email Bonnie, the newsletter editor, at [bradandbonnie@yahoo.com](mailto:bradandbonnie@yahoo.com)*