

**PITT BIRDS**

*CTCI Chapter 31*

**THUNDERBIRD  
CLUB**

Visit: [pittbirds.org](http://pittbirds.org)

# February 2015 Newsletter

## OFFICERS:

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Treasurer:	Jerry Longstreth	412-466-9091	<a href="mailto:gll1231@msn.com">gll1231@msn.com</a>

## RECENT EVENTS:

### Mardi Gras Celebration: February 17, 2015

The Pitt Birds celebrated Mardi Gras at the R E Club in Sharpsburg. Club member, Ron Hopkinson was the club's disc jockey and played the oldies along with Mardi Gras themed music. Masks and beads were the costumes of the evening and everyone had an enjoyable evening. The Pitt Birds thank Ron and Pat Hopkinson for organizing this event.



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## Winter Meeting: Friday, February 27, 2015

The Pitt Birds will meet at 6:30 PM at Kings Restaurant which is located at the intersection of I-79 and Route 910.

**GPS:** 105 VIP Drive, Wexford, PA 15090.

We will discuss and finalize ideas for the 2015 adventures. Please bring your suggestions to the meeting or contact Wayne Bane at 724-594-7482 or Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091.

Event suggestions previously submitted were:

Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>

Aviary and Max's Allegheny Tavern March

Garage Tour in Leechburg, PA

Auto and Air Museum in Canton OH

North Hill Antique Auto Club show on June 7<sup>th</sup>  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Thunderbird Celebration, Dearborn MI  
June 25 - 28

Kennywood Park Car Display July

Pitt Birds Picnic at the PVGP July 18-19<sup>th</sup>

Tygart Lake Dam in Grafton WV August or Sept.

Steam Show in Brownsville, PA May 17<sup>th</sup> or August 8<sup>th</sup>

Charlestown WV Rod Run Car Cruise October 3-4

Members suggested listing local car cruises as impromptu events.

We will also review what has been planned for the "Celebrate 60 Years of Thunderbird Excitement" event at the PVGP.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Thunderbird Celebration Dearborn Michigan June 25-28, 2015

The Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club will host this event. Interesting activities are planned including a tour of the Meurer Automobilia Collection, a Strolling Dinner featuring Michigan food products, a tour of the Piquette plant & Edsel & Eleanor Ford Estate, a Dinner Dance at the Hotel and an all Thunderbird show at the Ford Headquarters. Click on [Registration Form](#) or Double click on the attachment in the email to open it. If you cannot open the registration form, call Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091. A tour of Greenfield Village will be available on Sunday morning. Call Jerry Longstreth if you are interested.

For hotel reservation at the Doubletree Hilton in Dearborn, go to: <http://www.michiganbirds.org> then click on the DoubleTree by Hilton logo, or call Mimi Sion at the Doubletree Hotel at 1-313-982-3983 and mention this event. The special room rate is \$114.00.

**BIRDS OF ENCHANTMENT**  
2015 Region 6 Convention  
**August 26-30**  
Sheraton Uptown Hotel,  
Albuquerque, NM

Go to:  
[www.Thunderbirdsnm.com](http://www.Thunderbirdsnm.com)

Hosted by the  
Pajarito Thunderbird Club

Celebrating  
60  
years  
of the Ford  
Thunderbird

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Thunderbird will be the Spotlight Car at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 16-19, 2015



2015 will be the grand celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thunderbird. The PVGP has honored Thunderbird as the Spotlight Car. Several special activities are planned for this event. We are extending invitations to other Thunderbird owners, enthusiast, clubs, and out of town guests. Please join us as we celebrate 60 years of Thunderbird Excitement!

#### Activities Include:

- Our host hotel for out of town guests is the Comfort Inn in RIDC, Harmarville.
- Thursday Evening, July 16th – Welcome Dinner at Max and Erma's
- Friday, July 17th - A Countryside Tour to the Flight 93 Memorial and lunch at the Jean Bonnet Tavern
- Friday Evening, July 17th - Dinner event at a local restaurant
- Saturday, July 18th - Participate in a special PVGP Spotlight Thunderbird Display on the Schenley Park golf course. The display will be adjacent to the Ford Motor Co. display. View the qualifying races, and tour the pit and paddock area.
- Sunday, July 19th – You can register to take your Thunderbird onto the race track for a parade lap during the opening ceremonies from 11:00 AM till noon. This is one of the unique and special parts of being the Spotlight Car. Nearly 100,000 spectators will cheer you on as you take a full lap of the 2.3 mile circuit. Afterward you return to the Spotlight Car fairway to enjoy the afternoon races and car shows.

Members are encouraged to participate in all of the above activities. The PVGP Registration for this event is open at [www.pvvp.org/spotlight-car](http://www.pvvp.org/spotlight-car). If you have any questions, contact Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Current Membership: **68 Member Families**

**Welcome New Members: Bart and Vera Bartasavich**

#### **Wishing a Rapid Recovery to:**

Rich Augustine  
Dwight Good  
Jan Good

### **The Pitt Birds are now a Chapter Club in the International Thunderbird Club**

The Pitt Bird have six members that are also members of the International Thunderbird Club. Bart Bartasavich of the ITC asked if we would like to be a chapter club in the ITC and since we have a number of members that belong, we submitted an application to the ITC. The ITC has approved our application and we are now a chapter club in the International Thunderbird Club. For information about the ITC, visit: [www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com](http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com).

## TREASURY:

Balance as of February 1, 2015: **\$3,611.00**

### **2015 Dues Payment:**

If you have not paid your 2015 dues, your payment is due. Please make the dues payment of **\$20.00** to:

**Pitt Birds  
1723 Pleasant Avenue  
West Mifflin, PA 15122 2857**

If you have paid your dues, you should have received a membership card in the mail.

## FOR SALE:



### 1957 Thunderbird:

Contact: Jeff Spierer  
412-310-0810 or  
jkspirer@verison.net

\$38,000

Black with Black and White Interior, Excellent Condition, 63,000 miles, 312 V8, Automatic, Air conditioning, P/S, P/W, Wire Wheels.



### 1977 Thunderbird

Contact: Jim Sheller  
412-848-6699 or  
[SELFMADEMAHEMPA@aol.com](mailto:SELFMADEMAHEMPA@aol.com)

Asking \$5,500

White, red vinyl roof, red interior, 400 V8 2bbl, Second Owner, 16,300 miles, garage kept, New gas tank, Baldwin, PA.

### Golf Shirts:

If you would like to purchase a Turquoise / Thunderbird blue golf shirt with the Pitt Birds logo, contact Wayne and Dolly Bane at: 724.226.0788. The price is \$30.00 (\$32.00 for XXL).

### Tee Shirts:

With the Pitt Birds club logo are for sale for \$15.00 each. Shipping and handling to your address is an additional \$3.00. Limited supply remaining, sizes available; 1 large and 5 medium. Contact Ann Augustine at: 724-468-3202.



Specializing in 55-57 Thunderbirds, 65-70 Mustangs,  
and all makes of Muscle Cars.

Hill's Thunderbird Center / Marvin T. Hill  
29625 Bashan Road, Racine, Ohio 45771  
Phone: Info. Or Technical (740) 949-2217

Phone Orders "No Technical: (800) 562-1955

[www.hillsresto.com](http://www.hillsresto.com)

Email: [tbird1957@frontier.com](mailto:tbird1957@frontier.com)

## 2002 – 2005 Thunderbird Buyer's Checklist

Reprinted from TBN – Merlot4

Read about the car *first* to have some idea of what to expect; the best single source of information is: [portholeauthority.com](http://portholeauthority.com). Get what makes you happy even if it costs a bit more; this is more than just transportation, something that you will often take a second look at after you leave the car. Look the car over and make sure you're comfortable with it.

### Inspection – In addition to the drive train items:

- Have it inspected at a dealer, if possible at a Lincoln dealer.
- Check the suspension bushings (front and rear).
- Have the *clock spring* mechanism checked for proper operation. It's basically a flexible circuit that is attached to switches within the steering wheel. Things like turn signals, etc. use this.  
*Look at post 9 for a more complete explanation:*  
<http://www.thunderbirdnest.com/forums/showthread.php?t=21146&highlight=clockspring>
- Check out the operation of the heater. Make sure that you get equal hot/cold air from the dash vents, or you might have to replace the heater control valve.
- Check to make sure the power steering is quiet and smooth.
- Make certain that checking the COPs (coil on plugs) is part of the inspection. They are covered for 10 years on all but the 2002 models.
- Check the brake wear, it depends upon what kind of driver the ex-owner was, and what kind of miles they put on the car, highway or city.
- If the tires and/or spare are original they need to be replaced, this part is *not* negotiable, it *will* need to be done.
- Check to see if the battery has been replaced and when. Many electrical gremlins seem to stem from an aged battery; if it's original it needs to be replaced. If the battery has been replaced make sure it is the proper (vented) type.
- Check the service history. You will want to know the history and also the last time it was serviced and this will be in the Ford computer system.
- Do a Carfax and see the history of the car.

- If the car is a premium model, check to make sure the heated seats work.; note that 2002 models do not have the heated seats.
- Bring a CD to try out the CD changer.
- Replacement wheels are expensive and can be hard to find, check the condition and if chrome, ask if they leak, something chrome wheels have been known to do.
- If you pick it up that day, check the tires and spare for tire pressure.
- Check for any manuals, or spare parts that they may have
- Check to see if they have a car cover for it.
- Check the seats for excessive wear.

### Hard and Soft Top Checks:

- If it has a hardtop, be sure to get the Torx tool that allows you to take it off, but it isn't a deal breaker if it is missing since the correct sized Torx driver can be bought at a hardware store.
- Make sure the rear window defroster works on hard top.
- If there is a hardtop, check (with the hardtop removed) the rear mountings that accept the pins to secure the hardtop; the part can get bent through clumsy installation of the hardtop. If there is a hardtop, drive around with the top on to see if there are any annoying rattles.
- Have them remove the hard top and replace it before you drive off so you can see how it's done.
- If there is a hardtop, there should be a hardtop rolling stand and cover for when it is not on the car.
- While it is off, have them raise and lower the soft top to be sure it works as it should.
- You'll want them to take off the hard top to see what condition the top is in. In the case of a light colored top look carefully, the light color attracts dirt in the fold lines and you have to keep after it with cleaning. If the former owner took care of it, then you won't have any issues. Just clean and treat it. There are times when the only answer is to replace the top. If the soft top is not in good condition it can be expensive to replace.
- Check for a soft boot for when the top is down. Make sure there are six snaps attached and in good working order.