

**PITT BIRDS**

Established 1970

**THUNDERBIRD  
CLUB**

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

# July 2017 Newsletter

## OFFICERS:

President:	Wayne Bane	724-594-7482	<a href="mailto:dbane3413@comcast.net">dbane3413@comcast.net</a>
Vice President:	Peter Sarkis	412-310-1589	<a href="mailto:sarkis2004@comcast.net">sarkis2004@comcast.net</a>
Secretary:	Mary Beth Meyer	412-747-0769	<a href="mailto:mbmeyer321@hotmail.com">mbmeyer321@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jerry Longstreth	412-466-9091	<a href="mailto:gll1231@msn.com">gll1231@msn.com</a>

## RECENT EVENTS:

PA Trolley Museum in Washington, PA  
Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>



Thirty members met at McDonalds at the Meadowlands for the start of the tour. Chris Ames from the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club was in the area and joined us for the day. We caravanned to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum where we joined the car show. We had the largest presence of any one car club with fifteen Thunderbirds and three other vehicles. Once parked in the display area we assembled and took a ride on a 100 year old trolley. The wooden trolley had served the Pittsburgh area for many years prior to retiring to the museum. Several members stopped along the ride to tour the museum filled with old trolleys and memorabilia from around the country. After the car show we drove a short distance to the Napoli Restaurant where we enjoyed a nice dinner on the patio. The Pitt Birds thank Rich and Ann Augustine for organizing and leading this event.

# RECENT EVENTS:

## PA Trolley Museum in Washington, PA *Continued*



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## PITT BIRDS PICNIC at the PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX July 15 & 16 Weekend



The Pitt Birds annual picnic will be at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park on Saturday, July 15th, starting at 10:00 A.M. The picnic will continue on Sunday. Entrées and beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring a side dish, dessert or salad. The picnic and Thunderbird display are part of the 2,500 car international car show on the fairways of the Schenley Park golf course. **GPS:** 5400 Forbes Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15217. You can register for this PVGP event online at [www.pvgp.org/schenley](http://www.pvgp.org/schenley) or contact Jerry Longstreth for a **registration form**. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Longstreth 412-466-9091.

Listed below are some of the PVGP events you can expect to see and attend during this 10 day festival of car shows, races and special events.

For additional details visit: [www.pvgp.org/race-week-events](http://www.pvgp.org/race-week-events).

Kick-Off Rallye Sunday	July 2
Blacktie & Tailpipes Gala, Friday	July 7
PVGP Historic Race Weekend at Pitt-Race Complex	July 8-9
Invitational Car Show on Walnut Street	Monday, July 10
Car Cruise at the Waterfront	Tuesday July 11
Downtown Race Car Parade & Display	Wednesday July 12
Grand Prix Tune-Up at PNC Park	Wednesday July 12
Passport to Elegance Party	Thursday July 13
Schenley Park Race Weekend	July 15-16



## PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX THUNDERBIRD REGISTRATION



Celebrate Thunderbird Excitement at the 2017 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Participate in any of the 10 days of our events from the car shows to the races. If you own a new or vintage Thunderbird or are just a fan, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is the place to be this summer!

The International Car Show at Schenley Park is the highlight of the week. Park on the golf course with 2,500 show cars and watch the vintage races through the city streets. Event benefits the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Valley School.

Visit [www.pvgp.org/car-shows/schenley/](http://www.pvgp.org/car-shows/schenley/) for details or to register with a credit card

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Thunderbird Year \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### International Car Show at Schenley Park - July 15/16 Weekend

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thunderbird Weekend Registration - before July 10, 2017 – \$35  
Drive-ups on the day of the event will be charged \$40 and may not receive a decal or race program.
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ For Sale Sign - \$10

### Race Week Events – July 2-13

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Kick-Off Rallye with lunch for 2 on Sunday, July 2 – \$60
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacktie & Tailpipes Gala at Pittsburgh Field Club – Friday, July 7 – \$250 per person
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PVGP Historics at Pitt Race Complex – Weekend, July 8/9 – \$15 per person when you enter
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Car Cruise at the Waterfront – Tuesday, July 11 – \$5 per car, pay when you enter
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Downtown Parade & Plaza Display – Wednesday, July 12 – \$10 per car
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tune-Up @ Atria's – Wednesday, July 12 – \$40 per person plus \$20 to park on bridge
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Jet Center Party at Allegheny County Airport with Beatlemania Now! – Thursday, July 13 - \$375 per person
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ "In Spirit" Contribution to PVGP charities the Autism Society of Pittsburgh & Allegheny Valley School
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

Please make checks payable to Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association and mail to:  
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, P.O. Box 536078, Pittsburgh, PA 15253-5902

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Beaver Hot Summer Night Car Cruise

**Saturday, August 5th**

Join fellow Pitt Bird members in Beaver, PA for one of the nicest car cruises in the area. **GPS:** 901 3rd St, Beaver, PA 15009

Once a year Beaver opens its streets to some of the finest classic cars in the country. Approximately 2,000 cars will be in attendance. Park wherever you can find a good spot and join Jon and Joann Strebeck and their Thunderbird at the town square on the main street near the gazebo. Jon and Joann usually get there early and I recommend arriving before noon. If you have any questions call Jon Strebeck at 724-272-4558.

### National Pike Steam, Gas and Horse Show

**Saturday, August 12th**

The Pitt Birds will travel to West Brownsville to the National Pike Steam Show. Plan to meet at the Meadowlands McDonalds restaurant, just off of I-79 exit 41, at 9:30 AM.

**GPS:** 235 Meadowlands Blvd, Washington, PA 15301.

We will participate in a car show and view a wide variety of steam equipment. There will be food, music, parades, crafts and a flea market. This is an event for the entire family. **If you plan to attend, please RSVP Pete Sarkis at 412-310-1589 or [sarkis2004@comcast.net](mailto:sarkis2004@comcast.net).**

### Moon Area Car Cruise

**Sunday, August 27th**

Members will meet at Moon Park on or before 11:00 AM to enjoy this great car cruise in the park. The Pitt Birds will have a tent/pavilion for a gathering point located one quarter of a mile on the left after you enter the park. We will have some light snacks and salads. There will be a variety of food vendors at this event.

**GPS:** 1350 Ewing Rd, Moon, PA 15108.

If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Meyer at 412-818-5898.



### ITC Convention:

**Tuesday, August 29 – Sunday September 3, 2017**

The International Thunderbird Club will have its 2017 convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The host hotel is the Hotel Fort Wayne. For hotel reservation, visit: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/Hotel-Fort-Wayne/bookings.jsp?groupID=1736433&hotelID=77470>.

Tours include the Amish town of Shipshewana and four car museums including the popular Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum.

For Details visit: [http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/event/itc-convention-fort-wayne-indiana-august-29-september-3-2017/?instance\\_id=12](http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/event/itc-convention-fort-wayne-indiana-august-29-september-3-2017/?instance_id=12)

### A Note From Founding Club Member John Vierthaler



"Thanks to co founder Perry Anthony I'm back in touch with my "Mother Club". Just to show you my loyalty, I've saved my original front plate hand made by one of our members in 1970. May have been made by the Toth brothers who ran their own body shop in Dormont but I'm not sure of that.

After 30 years of being "Birdless" I got the itch and just bought a pretty nice torch red '55. Have rejoined the CTCL (they gave me back my old number, 864). Also joined the Colorado Classic Thunderbird Club. Read your newsletter and you guys are looking great! So good to see from our humble but enthusiastic, beginnings.

Love Colorado but miss the Burg in a lot of ways-great people and great place.

Keep up the good work!

John Vierthaler"

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Current Membership: **66 Members**

### ***Wishing a Rapid Recovery to John Shubert***

#### **Interested in Joining an International Thunderbird Club?**

The Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club is a chapter club with the Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) and the International Thunderbird Club (ITC). Both CTCI and ITC have regional and international events, provide excellent technical advice, publish bi-monthly magazines, offer vendor sourcing, and articles about other local clubs. Membership information to CTCI or ITC can be found by visiting the following web sites.

Classic Thunderbird Club International: [www.ctci.org](http://www.ctci.org)

Then click on "Become a Member" on the Home page.

International Thunderbird Club: [www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com](http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com)

Then click on the "Membership" button on the Home page.

## **FOR SALE:**



#### **1956 Thunderbird**

Contact: Rusty or Nancy

412-881-5864

[theoceancaptain4@aol.com](mailto:theoceancaptain4@aol.com)

**\$60,000 Firm**

312 V-8 Automatic (24,100 orig. miles), Colonial White (w/ porthole hard top incl.) w/ black and white interior, black soft top, aftermarket AC and real wire wheels and custom made to match- center console w/ storage and cup holders, power windows/seats/steering and brakes, also comes with lots of car show extras...



#### **1967 Thunderbird**

Contact: Edward Kemena

724-266-0320

[edkemena@aol.com](mailto:edkemena@aol.com)

**\$14,000 OBO**

Hardtop, restored, professional paint job, light blue with white vinyl hardtop and dark blue interior. AM/FM radio and cassette, stainless exhaust, new gas tank, radiator re-core, transmission overhauled, engines runs on unleaded gas. Excellent condition.

#### **Golf Shirts:**

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, 2 medium sizes available.

Contact Ann Augustine at: 724-468-3202.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Dinner	
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Meeting	Wayne and Dolly Bane
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Get Together (A No Meeting Meeting) at the Max's Allegheny Tavern	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Visit the Amish Community of Smicksburg	Rich and Ann Augustine
May 1 <sup>nd</sup>	May Day Parade, Uniontown	Ken and June Tarpley
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	USAF Thunderbirds, Pittsburgh Airport on May 13	John and Donna Shubert
May 21 <sup>th</sup>	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	
June 2-3 <sup>rd</sup>	All Ford National @ Carlisle	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	NHHAC Car Show, Mars, PA	Warren and Jeanene Smith
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	PA Trolley Museum in Washington, PA	Rich and Ann Augustine
	<b>Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Events:</b>	
July 8-9 <sup>th</sup>	Races at Pittsburgh Int. Race Course	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Car Cruise at the Homestead Waterfront	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Downtown Parade and Plaza Display	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
July 15-16 <sup>th</sup>	Pitt Birds Picnic	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	National Pike Steam, Gas and Horse Show	Pete and Karen Sarkis
September 23/24	Butler Fall Festival or the Alameda Septemberfest in Butler	Pete and Karen Sarkis
September 23/24	Crabfest and Railroad Tour in Cumberland Maryland <b>-CANCELED</b>	Pete and Karen Sarkis
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Garage Tour in Salem, OH	Jon and Joann Strebeck
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Meeting	Wayne and Dolly Bane
	<b>National Thunderbird Events:</b>	
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	CTCI Regional Convention, Parsippany, NJ	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> – Sep 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ITC Convention, Fort Wayne, IN	Pete and Karen Sarkis
	<b>CAR CRUISES</b>	
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	SNPJ Car Cruise, Oakdale, PA	Mary Beth Meyer
July 1- 2	Back to the 50's Car Cruise, Cascade Park, New Castle, PA	Pete and Karen Sarkis
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beaver Hot Summer Nights Car Cruise	Jon and Joann Strebeck
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Moon Area Car Cruise	John and Donna Shubert
All Wed. & Sat.	Pittsburgh Mills Mall	Wayne and Dolly Bane

## Changing Coolant in Your Retro Bird:

By Greg Cummings, TBN



Heater Air Bleed Hose



Engine Fill Cap

Finally got the nerve to change the antifreeze. With all that I had read about burping, only getting a gallon of four out, and my friend had me spoked. It was easy. First thing you need is 2 gallons of Motorcraft Gold Antifreeze Coolant, VC-7-B. About 34 dollars for the two. Second 6 gallons of Distilled Water, 98 cents apiece. Now you need to prepare. The heater air bleed will drain fluid. It is awkwardly located and I detached it so I could pull the hose out. Get the diagnostic connector out of the way; it just slides off the attachment. What I did next you may try to get around. I popped two fasteners on the wiper cowl over the degas bottle off. Ford will charge you \$15 for 4 to get replacements. The air bleed hose is on a nipple on the degas bottle and will pop off. The heater air bleed has a slotted screw that comes out to allow it to drain. I put the rear of the car on ramps, just to get a little more out.

Under the right front bumper is the Radiator drain. A bit of plastic tubing helps if attached to the outlet. A T-50 tork tool fits the drain plug. Forget about disconnecting the Oil Cooler intake hose. It's on top of the oil filter, and you don't need to do it.

Open the degas bottle and then drain the radiator. To get more out I got the old Electrolux, put the hose on backward turned it on and blew it thru the degas bottle. Make sure the vacuum is clean with new filter bag. This got a bit more out. Open the engine fill and let it sit for a few minutes. Close up the radiator drain and the engine fill. Fill the degas bottle with the water all the way, it will sink down. Open the engine fill and fill that with water also then close it up. Be careful with the engine fill don't let fluid get on the belts. Close the degas bottle and start it up. Set the defroster to 90. Keep the degas bottle filled to the top fill line.

After the car gets warm you can open the screw on the air bleed, get a piece of tupperware to catch the water as it comes out. Put the screw back in and get it to running temp. Drain some more from the bleed and tighten it. Fine air bubbles will escape those are what you want to get rid of. Get the RPM's to 2000 for 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the heat down but higher than the outside temp. If you still have heat after 5 minutes of running shut the engine off, drain the radiator and do the process all over again. If no heat, which I doubt will happen, try for more air bubbles. Repeat this about 5 times. The drained coolant the last time around should be so diluted it should not feel slick. Do the whole process again this time use the antifreeze. Do not dilute the antifreeze. The water in the radiator will do that job. I ended up getting a gallon and three quarters in there. That's about right. Get a flash light to shine in your degas bottle. Make sure you are reading it right. It's a two layered bottle and the gold coolant is very light. Also the condensation on the inside of the bottle may fool you. Let it sit for a few hours and fill it to the top cold line. Be careful releasing pressure from system, do it from the degas bottle. I'd say this job is about a 2 to 3 difficulty.

### Second Article:

#### 2003 THUNDERBIRD - FILLING COOLING SYSTEM

It's drained as any other car but the fill and bleed is slightly different as there is a separate heater bleed valve --this looks like a piece of capped half-inch hose that sits alongside the master cylinder--it actually goes back to the heater box and must be open when refilling. There are also two fills, one on the front of the engine and the other on the degas bottle. Synopsizing from the manual-- Fill the degas bottle first and cap it, then fill at the engine fill and cap it--the heater bleed is still open. Start the engine, set hvac to defrost and let idle. Close heater bleed when a steady stream of coolant flows from the bleed. Let it idle for five minutes and vent any air at bleed valve again, then top off level (cold fill mark) in the degass bottle. Run engine at approx 2000 rpm for 3-5 min or until hot air comes from heater; idle again and verify hot air from heater. Set heat to 75F and let idle for two minutes. Shut off engine and allow to cool, then bring coolant level to cold fill mark.