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September 2017 Newsletter

OFFICERS:

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

RECENT EVENTS:

**National Pike Steam, Gas and Horse Show
Saturday, August 12th**



Members met at the Meadowlands McDonalds and traveled to West Brownsville to the National Pike Steam Show. As we arrived we were directed to a dedicated parking area in the car show area. Once situated we walked through the fair grounds and viewed a variety of steam tractors, locomotives, steam shovels and unique steam equipment. We also browsed the craft booths and flea market. The Pitt Birds thank Pete and Karen Sarkis for organizing and leading this event.

RECENT EVENTS:

CTCI Convention, Parsippany, NJ August 3-6



Eight members traveled to New Jersey to attend the Classic Thunderbird Club International Convention. Over three hundred fifty Thunderbird enthusiasts were in attendance. Activities included a welcome dessert, a cook out, a poker run, and an awards banquet. We toured New York City with stops at Rockefeller Center the Top of the Rock, Grand Central Station, and the World Trade Center Memorial and Museum. Members also took the Circle Line Best of New York boat cruise. The main event was the Concours car show. One Hundred Two Thunderbirds were in the show. Congratulations to Dwight and Birdie Good who won a Silver award in the Concours Original class and to Jerry and Barbara Longstreth who won a third place award in the Touring class. Our thanks go out to the New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club for organizing and hosting this great event.

RECENT EVENTS:

ITC Convention, Fort Wayne, Indiana
August 29 to September 3, 2017



Members traveled to Indiana to the International Thunderbird Club Convention. Events included a welcome reception, tours to the Amish countryside and Sturgis, four Auburn auto museums, a concours show, and an awards banquet. Congratulation to Fred and Nancy Antill, Bart and Vera Bartasaivich and Pete and Karen Sarkis for their first place awards in the concours show. Our thanks go out ITC Event Chairman Bill Zieber, and ITC President Bart Bartasavich for organizing and hosting this great event.

RECENT EVENTS:

Moon Area Car Cruise Sunday, August 27th

Twenty four Members met at Moon Park and enjoyed a great car cruise. The event was sponsored by the Moon Township Volunteer Fire Departments. We arrived early and secured a pavilion for a gathering point. Member brought sandwiches, wraps, snacks and salads and all enjoyed a great lunch. The Pitt Birds thank Mary Beth Meyer for managing this event.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tour Al Geisler's Garage Saturday, September 16th

Members will meet at Eat'n Park on Route 60 in Robinson at 10:00 AM. **GPS:** 100 Park Manor Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
We will caravan to Al Geisler's garage to see a great selection of classic Fords. We ask that everyone bring a "cover dish" and we will have lunch at Al's facility. If you have any questions contact Bob Macek at 412-331-6218.

Garage Tour in Salem, OH Saturday, October 14th

Member will meet at Denny's Restaurant in Cranberry at 9:00 AM
GPS: 1346 Old Freedom Rd, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066
We will caravan to Salem, OH via the back roads and arrive at John Kuffleitner's Classic Car Collection. We will tour the facility and then have lunch at Dutch Haus Restaurant in Salem.
If you have any questions contact Jon Strebeck at 724-272-4558.

Autumn Meeting Saturday, November 18th

The Pitt Birds will meet at **2:00 PM on Saturday, November 18th** at Eat'n Park at the Homestead Waterfront.
GPS: 245 E Waterfront Dr, Homestead, PA 15120

Agenda items are:

- Nomination of Officers
- Suggested Activities and Tours for 2018
- Holiday Dinner Plans

Nomination of Officers

The Pitt Birds are soliciting nomination suggestions for the following offices in this club:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

If you are interested or know of someone that is interested, please contact Wayne Bane at 724-594-7482 or dbane3413@gmail.com.

The position for the Newsletter Editor is also available.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current Membership: **68 Members**

Wishing a rapid recovery to Steve Steranchak.



It is with deep regret that we inform you that club member, John Shubert passed away on July 31, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his Wife Donna and their family.

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

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

International Thunderbird Club: www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com

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

LOST AND FOUND:

Found a Thunderbird floor mat at the Pitt Birds picnic. If you know who it belongs to, please contact Pete Sarkis at 412-302-1589.

FOR SALE:



1956 Thunderbird

Contact: Rusty or Nancy
412-881-5864

theoceancaptain4@aol.com

\$60,000

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

\$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.

Skills 101 – How to detail your car’s interior

[Kurt Ernst](#) - [Hemmings.com](#)

For most car owners, cleaning the interior of their daily driver consists of little more than the occasional 75-cent vacuum rental at the drive-through car wash. Worse yet, others feel the need to douse the interior with shiny and sticky plastic and vinyl preservatives, advertised as beneficial in the back of car magazines and on car-themed television shows. As with properly washing a car, the correct care of a car’s interior takes a bit of work, but the long-term payback in maintaining a car’s value is worth it.

Step one is identifying the materials needed, including both tools and cleaning products. Microfiber towels are a must-have item, and dirty interiors will require quite a few. Dedicated microfiber towels should be used to clean glass (and clean glass only, to avoid picking up grit that can potentially scratch the inside of a windshield), and it’s best to use a microfiber towel designed specifically for glass cleaning (usually with a finer nap than an all-purpose microfiber towel). Bristle brushes are needed to dust vents and scrub things like leather seats, door panels and steering wheels; it’s best to have one “dry brush” dedicated to dusting only, with a second brush that can be used for wet scrubbing. A vacuum is a must-have item, and while a plug-in vacuum will provide the most suction, a rechargeable or 12v outlet-powered vacuum is better than no vacuum at all.

As for chemicals, an auto glass cleaner and an interior cleaner are must-have items, while a rubber preservative is highly recommended. For vehicles with leather seats, a leather cleaner and a separate leather conditioner are needed, while cloth upholstery can generally be cleaned with the same spray used for interiors (though specially-formulated upholstery cleaners are available). Spray-on plastic and vinyl preservatives for the dashboard are a matter of individual tastes; if you believe them to be beneficial, just remember that a little goes a long way.

In fact, the “glossy” preservatives generally contain silicone oil, and instead of protecting surfaces can actually do more damage by accelerating heat transfer in vinyl dash material. A better option is to simply keep the dash clean and avoid parking in direct sunlight (if possible); for those desiring a sheen on their dash top, some detailers recommend using Pledge furniture polish.

Step one is cleaning interior glass. Follow the directions on the automotive glass cleaner of your choice, using the previously mentioned glass-specific microfiber towels to wipe the glass surfaces dry. If there’s heavy film (generally caused by the outgassing of plastics in a vehicle’s interior) built up on the inside of the windshield, it may be necessary to repeat this process two or even three times. To verify that a streak is on the inside of the glass and not the outside, vary the direction used to wipe the glass; wipe interior glass in a side-to-side motion, while using an up-and-down motion to wipe exterior glass surfaces. Never use abrasives or harsh chemicals to clean the inside of a windshield, as many use a layer of plastic film on the inside that can be susceptible to scratching. When cleaning the rear window, be particularly gentle with defroster elements on the glass, as these can be damaged by harsh scrubbing.

Next comes a thorough vacuuming of the car’s interior. Start by removing and vacuuming the floor mats first, paying attention to stains and ground-in dirt; if vacuuming doesn’t get the mats clean, carpet cleaner with stain remover is your next step (but be sure to test for colorfastness first). If you have access to a carpet steam cleaner, this can often be the best way to get heavy soil out of floor mats, but it’s probably not worth renting a steamer just for this purpose. When vacuuming the interior, don’t forget to get between the seat cushion and seat back, and don’t neglect the area under the seats (the realm of the errant french fry). Use the dry bristle brush to sweep dust from vents and controls before vacuuming, and the same technique applies to other interior nooks and crannies (like shifter boots, handbrake boots, instrument pods and such).

Skills 101 – How to detail your car’s interior

Continued

Once the full interior is vacuumed, take a moment to assess the next steps. If the seats are stained and dirty (regardless of material), scrubbing with a cleaner and a bristle brush will be necessary. For minor cleaning, spraying leather or vinyl seats with the cleaner of your choice, then wiping with a microfiber cloth, may be all that’s necessary. Generally speaking, always follow the cleaning product manufacturer’s directions, and when scrubbing use as little pressure as you can to obtain the desired results.

The wet soft-bristle brush is an excellent way to clean the leather of steering wheels and shift knobs. Spray the brush with cleaner, then use it to work up a lather on the leather surface, working one small area at a time. Use a microfiber cloth to wipe away the lather, making sure the foam (which carries the lifted particles of dirt in it) isn’t allowed to dry.

Leather upholstery requires one more step for proper care, and that’s the use of a leather preservative. Dry or neglected leather surfaces may require more than one application (buffing with a dry microfiber towel in between coats), but in general, always use the minimal amount of product necessary. As with paint, more light applications are far better than a single heavy application. Avoid using leather preservative on leather-wrapped steering wheels, as it can make the surface slippery, particularly for those with sweaty hands. When treating leather shift or handbrake boots, spray a bit of preservative on a microfiber towel, then gently work this into the leather surfaces. This avoids getting leather preservative into places it shouldn’t be.

Next, use the interior cleaner and microfiber towels to wipe down door panels, door arm rests and the center console arm rest. Lotion, bug spray and sunscreen has a habit of accumulating wherever driver and passengers rest their arms, so a more vigorous scrubbing with the wet bristle brush and interior cleaner may be necessary. Even if only a light cleaning is called for, it’s best to spray the cleaner on a (clean) microfiber towel instead of the door panel, as this minimizes the possibility of liquid getting into areas it doesn’t belong (like electric window controls).

Tackle the dash in much the same way, using cleaner sprayed on a microfiber towel (which should also pick up any dust missed during vacuuming). Use care in cleaning the center stack, and use as little cleaner as possible around switches and electronics.

Shoe scuffs on plastic door sills plates can generally be erased using the bristle brush and spray cleaner method, though this may take a bit more elbow grease than scrubbing suntan lotion out of a door panel. The same applies to any shoe scuffs in the footwells, another common area of abuse.

Those wishing to use a preservative on dash top, plastics and vinyls (even after our warning above) should spray it on a clean microfiber towel instead of spraying directly on the surface to be treated. The same can be said of vinyl upholstery; when using a vinyl upholstery conditioner, use as little as necessary, sprayed on a microfiber towel and not on the surface itself.

Finally, the last step is to use a dedicated rubber preservative on door and window seals. The best products are expensive, but they will likely allow the original rubber seals to last the life of the car, while eliminating things like wind noise and water intrusion caused by shrinking rubber seals.

As with proper exterior washing, careful interior detailing takes time and effort, but will extend the life of your car considerably. When (or if) the time comes to sell it, proper upkeep should also pay dividends by enhancing the car’s value.