

T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Established 1981

August 2026

Volume 45 Issue 8

President's Message...



Our annual event is coming up next month, **All Tbird Day**. It is a time for you to dust off the old bird and bring it out to our show. This year we will celebrate all of the '55, '56, and '57 model years with the inclusion of the American Road members. I am working on getting a team of club member volunteers that have indicated that they will travel to your garage or where your Tbird is kept and give it some TLC and get it running. There will be no excuse not to bring your prize possession to our show. Just let me know if you would like the Bird Crew to visit you! Thank you Dave Lau, Dave Salzman, Keith Bentley, and Charlie Henry for volunteering.



I have also included in this issue the **All Tbird Sponsorship flyer and form** to sign up any potential sponsors that would like the opportunity to get involved with our group. You don't know unless you ask. The proceeds for the funds will go into our vocational scholarship fund. So print out the flyer and the sponsor form and take it to the place where you do business with your Thunderbird! Gift cards to restaurants or stores are great too!

Thank you all that came out and participated in our summer events, but wait summer is not over yet! Check out the great pictures and events still to come!



Visit: www.MichiganTbirds.org · WWTC · P.O. Box 51027 · Livonia, MI 48151 · 586.703.4435

Club Events 2026

August 9th - Pre- Woodward Dream Cruise

September 20th All T-Bird Day

October 18th - Hines Park Cider Cruise

November 7th - 2027 Planning Meeting

December 6th - Annual Club Holiday Party

Event Details and Other Car Events Will be in the Newsletter

Also, Gary Rellox has supplied us with business size cards with our logo and website address. If you see a Tbird while you are out and about and they are not members, give them a card and direct them to the website to fill out an application for membership!

Weekly Car Shows!

Monday Nights-Belleville, Main, 5pm-7:30pm, Memorial Day-End of September

Thursday Nights- Ypsi, N River & E Cross, Depot Town, 4-8pm Mem Day -Labor Day

Thursday Nights- Romulus, Eureka & Huron River Dr, Blue Sky (ice cream) 4-7:30pm

Friday Nights- Riverview, Fort Street & Sibley, 4PM-dark (May-Oct)

Other Great Events

August 1st—Bladow's See July Flyer

August 2nd—Troy Traffic Jam

August 17th—Hines Park Cruise

Sept 8-13th—VTCI International Gathering, Flagstaff, AZ

Sept tbd—Old Car Festival

Know
of
An Event
We'd like?

The Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club now has the largest collection of Ford Thunderbirds in the entire State of Michigan!

Be Proud to Own a Tbird!

Watch for details in upcoming issues.

WWTC

Election News

Meet the Slate for 2027-2029

President	Barry Burnham
Vice President	Keith Bentley
Secretary	Nancy Burnham
Treasurer	Pam Bentley

Every member in good standing and a member for at least one year, has the opportunity to run for the Elected Positions of the Board of Directors. Each position is a 2 year commitment. The new term will begin January 1, 2027. If you would like to get your name placed on the ballot, I must have your nomination in to me by midnight of July 31, 2026. The board meets at least once a quarter and the meetings may be in person or virtual.

Three directors round out the Board of Directors and they are appointed by the president.

The Standing Committees are appointed by the President.

Jennifer and Jeff's

2026! 6th Annual

Motors Free for All

Cars, Motorcycles, Trucks, Tractors, Classics, Mods, Originals...Anything with a Motor

Bring: Yourself, Spouses, Kids, Friends, Family, Auto and Motorcycle Enthusiasts,
Your cool ride, picnic gear, plug
Dress: Match your ride



Again, OVER
100
CARS
(maybe more !!!)



Saturday, August 1, 2026 11:00 am to 9:00PM 9930 JOY RD, PLYMOUTH, MI Rain Date: AUG 2

Sorry no pets!

Bird Talk



Happy Birthday Members!

1	Marie Brucker	16	Robert Pech
2	JoAnn Rodriguez	18	Brandon Antonik
5	Susie Bennett	20	Denise Sikora
10	Ron Fauteux	25	Jennifer Bladow
16	Dave Millerick	30	Greg Gtocholski

August



Welcome! New Members

Frank and Nancy O'Connell

Bruce Belle

Car models will be published in the new directory

Something to Sell or Trade?

2002 Thunderbird Press Kit/Customer Gift Pack. Five boxes of promo material including die cast of 2002 Tbird. Hardly ever touched—in excellent condition ~~\$400.00~~—Call Charlie Henry, Cmhenry57@outlook.com. 248.476.1668

Best offer



I have four tires that came off my 62. Three are in decent shape and the fourth would make a good spare. Please see attached pictures. Im Selling all four for \$60.00.

Contact Mark Young:

myoung1512@yahoo.com



Pre-Dream Cruise

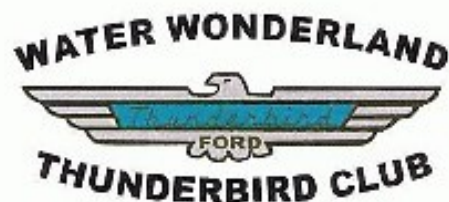
Sunday, August 9th

Meet at 4:30 pm leave at 6:00 pm

**at Regional Medical Imaging (RMI) parking lot ,
26454 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI
(east side of Woodward between Lincoln & 11 Mile).**

**traveling north on Woodward to the
Moose Preserve Restaurant
for a **6:30 pm** reservation.**

**RSVP to JoAnn text 248-719-0160 (please leave
your name) or email to joannbill801@comcast.net.
The restaurant is located at 43034 Woodward Ave.,
Bloomfield, MI (n of Square Lake Road)**





Our 46th Anniversary
All Years of Thunderbirds Welcome!

All T-Bird Day 2026

Sunday, September 20th

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Historic Wilson Barn—Livonia, MI • 29350 W. Chicago Rd. @ Middlebelt Rd.

- ♦ Dash Plaques to first 50 T-Birds
- ♦ Live DJ
- ♦ 50\50 Cash Raffle
- ♦ Class Awards Prizes
- ♦ Food Vendor
- ♦ Stuff the Box

Registration: Member Fee \$20\car prior to Sept. 11th
Non-Member Fee \$25\ and after Sept. 11th

For More information and Registration Forms call:

Pam Bentley - 734-812-4781

ALL T-BIRD DAY REGISTRATION FORM

September 20, 2026



Date: _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

EVENT FEE

CARS: Members: \$20.00 per car preregistration

Non-member & day of event: \$25.00 per car

Year _____ Body Style* _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Year _____ Body Style* _____ Color _____ \$ _____

*Open = Convertible; Closed = Hardtop

VENDOR: I wish to reserve a Vendor space - \$20.00 per space \$ _____

CAR CORRAL: I wish to reserve _____ spaces in the Corral \$20.00 ea. \$ _____

(the Car Corral is reserved to display cars for sale)

Total Enclosed Cash \$ _____ Check # _____ \$ _____

Contact: Pam Bentley at 734-812-4781. Please mail check or money order with registration form to arrive:

No later than Friday, September 11, 2026 to:

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club • P.O. Box 51027, Livonia, MI 48151

Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

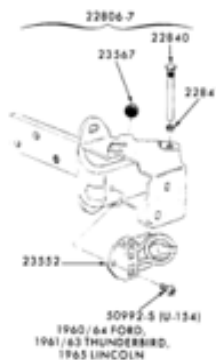
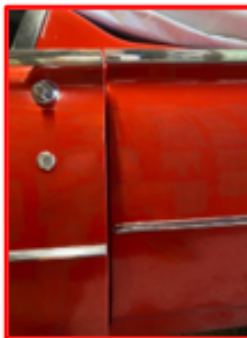
Please no smoking or Alcoholic beverages on premises - Website: www.michiganbirds.org

Classic Thunderbird Maintenance Tech-Tips

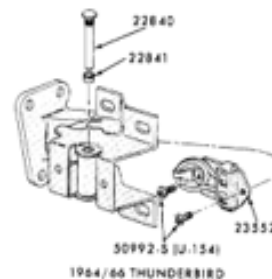
The subject of this month's tech-tip is recognizing if you have a door alignment problem. Older vehicles after many years of usage can have door sagging issues that increases the sheet metal stresses leading to fatigue cracks especially, when the door latch striker is re-adjusted upward to maintain door alignment using harder closing efforts. This sagging condition is very common for "friction type" door hinges used by Ford for 1955-1963 Thunderbirds. These hinges (inside the door shell) are subjected to cantilever bending when the door is opened and are held in place by the friction coefficient and bolt tension loads at the mounting points. As a general rule during vehicle assembly, paint is not allowed at the door/hinge interface this would lower the friction coefficient significantly.

How to check if your door is aligned properly:

- 1) Trace the outline of the door striker then remove the door striker,
- 2) Close the door and check for a proper alignment with the rear of the door sheet metal and quarter panel (and any molding's on both assemblies),
- 3) Also, give the door the up/down wiggle test to check for the hinge pin wear.
- 4) If sagging is evident as indicated in the picture below, the door needs to be adjusted upward.



1955-'63 Door Hinges



1964-'66 Door Hinges





Thunderbird Club
45th Anniversary



*Our 45th Anniversary -
All Years of Thunderbirds Welcome!*

All T-Bird Day 2026

Sunday, September 20th

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Historic Wilson Barn—Livonia, MI • 29350 W. Chicago Rd. @ Middlebelt Rd.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Classic:	\$1000.00	name and logo on all printed and social media, recognition at event, top billing sponsor
Vintage:	\$500.00	logo on printed materials, recognition at event.
Landau:	\$250.00	recognition at event
Driver:	\$100.00	listing on sponsor poster at event

Contact:

Barry Burnham, President
586.703..4435

WWTC all t-bird day 2025 sponsor flyer



All T-Bird Day 2026

Sunday, September 20th

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Historic Wilson Barn—Livonia, MI • 29350 W. Chicago Rd. @ Middlebelt Rd.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Classic:	\$1000.00	name and logo on all printed and social media, recognition at event, top sponsor billing
Vintage:	\$500.00	logo on printed material, recognition at event
Landau :	\$250.00	recognition at event
Driver:	\$100.00	listing on sponsor poster at event

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Office Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Check #: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Proceeds to fund automotive tech scholarship program.

Annual PicNc Lights a Fire!





Pam and Nancy



Nadine and Denise



Rick and Patrick



George Grillin 'n Chillin



Ed and Bob



Pam and John



Norma and MVTC peeps



More friends from MYTC



Randy and Jo



Susie, Nancy and Barb



Dave and Gary



JoAnn and Pam



Brad, Tom and Judy



Picknickers purchased keys to open the Treasure Chest!



Shear pandemonium!



An undisclosed amount of CASH!



Big Winners!



Tbird horses cruise for lunch!



Barry and Nancy





Here is a group with giddy-up and go!



Happy 43rd Anniversary!
Rich and Judy



Partners in crime



Looking Good!

Colonial White



One Bird Got Away!





70th Anniversary Pin

Celebrating the
Thunderbird

While Supplies Last!

\$10.00 each

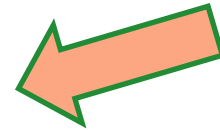


Order Today! Mail check and indicate quantity to:
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

P.O. Box 51027

Livonia, MI 48151

Pin size 1.25" w • Supporting our scholarship program • 586-703-4435



Who Owned Your Car?

Curious? Vehicle title history records are available by mail for \$15.00, or \$16 if certified. To request a copy of your vehicle's record, complete the [Record Lookup Request form](#) online and return with payment made out to State of Michigan to the address on the form. You can also email me at barry.burnham@me.com and request a form to mail in.



Have you checked out our
brand new website?

Michigantbirds.org

Please let me know what you think too!



Executive Board

Barry Burnham, President
586-703-4435
barry.burnham@me.com

Keith Bentley, Vice President
734-812-5404
klbentley01@yahoo.com

Nancy Burnham, Secretary
586-747-6805
nburnham1152@gmail.com

Pam Bentley, Treasurer
734-812-4781
pcbentley21@yahoo.com

Directors

Rick Charniga, Technical Director
734-740-3556
rickcharniga@gmail.com

David Lau, Technical Director
734-358-6071
toomanycars@charter.net

Denise Sikora, Membership Director
313-719-1588
56tbird@sbcglobal.net

Standing Committees

Nancy Seyfarth, Event Coordinator
313-436-8327
nancyloseyfarth@gmail.com

JoAnn Rodriguez, Event Reservations
248-719-0160
joannbill801@comcast.net

David Campbell, Transition Team
248-464-1597
hzvvgb@charter.net

Larry Seyfarth, Advisor
313-436-8327
larryseyfarth@yahoo.com

Don't Wait Any Longer!

Pick an event, get your Tbird ready and join us!



Enjoy the Summer!



Barry Burnham, Newsletter
586-703-4435
barry.burnham@me.com