

T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club
Established 1981

July 2026

Volume 45 Issue 7

President's Message...



Thank you to everyone that participated in our June events. It was great to see so many new faces out at our events. I hope you are all having as much fun as I am! Mark your calendars now for the Annual Picnic.

Did you ever think about how our club operates and events come together so smoothly? It is a team of your fellow car enthusiasts that step forward and take care of the business end of our club. This year elections are coming up. They are two year commitments and I can say the time goes by fast and it is very rewarding. This year the executive board is up for re-election. The president, the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer. So far myself as president, Keith Bently as vice president, Nancy Burnham as secretary and Pam Bentley as treasurer have all indicated that they would like to serve as your Executive Board, another term. However, if you would like to submit your name or nominate a fellow club member for one of the positions, let me know by the end of July. If you would like to serve on JoAnn's event reservation committee or Nancy Setfarth's event coordinator committee, they would love to have you too! Just let me know. The Board Meetings are usually held once a month in person or by Zoom and usually a weeknight.

Our new club directory is almost ready. You will receive the directory electronically to your phone or computer. Feel free to print a copy and keep it in your glovebox.

I hope you all have a safe and fun filled 4th of July!



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

Club Events 2026

July 19th - WWTC Club Picnic

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

July 11th—Cruise US-12, Wayne

July 11th—Grosse Ile car show

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

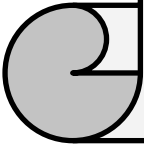
Proposed Slate for 2027

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.



Bird Talk



Happy Birthday Members!

5	Barry Burnham	16	Nancy Setfarth
7	Nino Montelec	22	Al Waters
9	Jim Brucker	26	Sue Diebol
10	Bob Witt	29	Herman Griffin
11	Buck Carver	29	Tom Grossman
14	Gordon Munn	30	Nancy Talkowski
18	Roger Melton	31	Audrey Grosman

July



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



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.

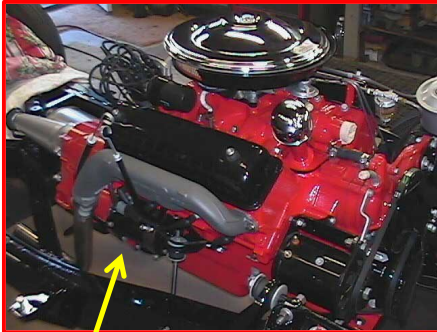


Contact Mark Young:

myoung1512@yahoo.com

Classic Thunderbird Maintenance Tech-Tips

The subject of this month's tech-tip is replacing your starter. If your Thunderbird is a *1955-'57 Y-block engine (292-312) this is a straight forward simple task. Loosen the starter cable and three bolts and remove the starter. However, 1958-1964 Thunderbirds which use the same starter design, removal is more labor intensive because of the starter's length and existing chassis obstructions in these models.



**1955-'57 Y-block Engines
Starter Location**



**1956-'64 Thunderbird 12 Volt Starter
For 153 Gear Teeth Flywheel**

Ford FE engine series models starting in 1965 utilized a new starter/flywheel design which is easier to service. Unfortunately, it is not compatible with previous FE engines.



**1965 Ford FE Engine Series 12 Volt
Starter "New Design" For 184 Gear
Teeth Flywheel**



**WATER WONDERLAND
THUNDERBIRD CLUB**

Rick Charniga
Technical Director

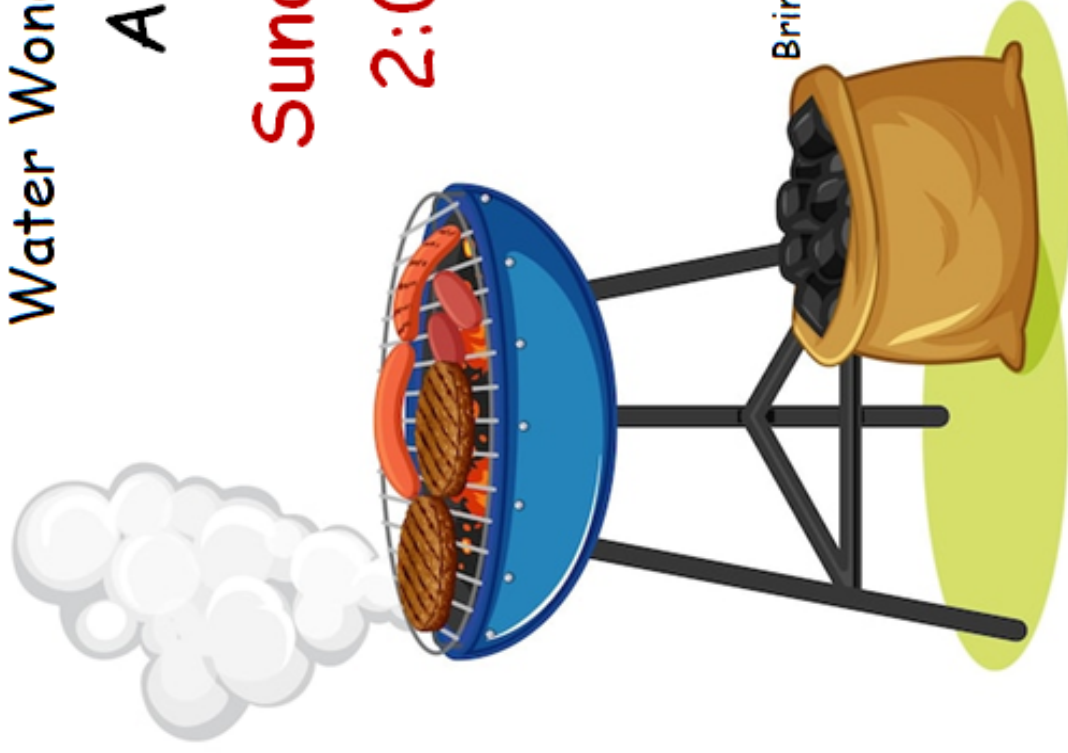
P.O. Box 51027
Livonia, MI 48151

734.740.3556
rickcharniga@gmail.com

*1955 Thunderbirds use the same starter which is 6 Volt.

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 19th
2:00 pm to ???



Menu:

Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Chicken
Soda Pop
Water

Bring a Dish to pass!
(sorry: no Alcohol)

Bring Your Car Tool



Treasure Chest
Drawing Tickets
Available onsite!

R.S.V.P to JoAnn at 248-719-0160 by July 17th • Location: Merriman Hollow @ Merriman and Hines Drive
Or Joannbill801@comcast.net

June Photos



Baker's with the owner



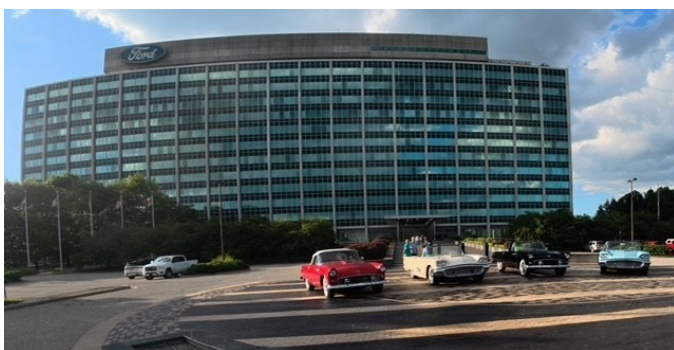
Thank You Norma for the invite!



Bakers rained out :(



Nancy & JoAnn



One of the last events scheduled at the Ford Glass House:
Rick Charniga, Larry Seyfarth, Seymour Bray, David Lau



From the Penthouse



Nancy & Keith





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.michigantbirds.org

2026 THUNDERBIRDS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION				REGISTRATION FORM - VTCI MEMBERS*				Sept. 8 th - 13 th						
Name _____				Phone Number _____										
Spouse/Guests _____				Phone Number _____										
Mailing Address _____				City, State, Zip _____										
E-Mail Address _____				E-Mail Address _____										
VTCI Number _____				VTCI Chapter Affiliation _____										
Are you willing to serve as a judge? ☐ yes ☐ no				Do you want to be an exhibitor in the Swap Meet? ☐ yes ☐ no										
Are you a First Timer? ☐ yes ☐ no				*Event Form for Non-VTCI Members wishing to be judged/attend will be available at www.az.thunderbirdclub.com/registration										
Non-Judged Divisions Judged Divisions VTCI Membership Required (See Volume 1 of the Concours Rules on the VTCI Website)		☐ Senior Participation		T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention										
		☐ Display		Open to All Years										
		☐ Senior		T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention and eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" Award.										
		☐ Primary		Eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" award: 1955-1979. Path to obtain Senior Status.										
		☐ Driver		1955-1979 only. Engine compartment, trunk & undercarriage not judged.										
		☐ Late Model		1980-1997 300-point system; all areas judged.										
		☐ Modified		1955-1997 only. 300-point system; all areas judged.										
		☐ Touring		1955-1997 only. Undercarriage not judged; modifications for safety, reliability & comfort allowed. See Volume 1 Concours Rules.										
		☐ 2002-2005		100-point system; undercarriage not judged										
		☐ 2002-2005 Modified		100-point system; undercarriage not judged										
☐ Wilcox Preservation & Authenticity Award		Advance Notice / Separate Application Required; minimum 30 days in advance												
IMPORTANT - Registration deadline for cars to be judged-August 8, 2026 (No Exceptions)										QTY	COST	TOTAL		
Registration Fee		Couple/Family (children under 18 included) (Enter #1 for a couple)							70					
		Single (Individuals over age 18)							45					
Tuesday Sept 8th		3PM-6PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"												
		Explore Flagstaff Area or Historic Downtown (Convention Packet includes Flagstaff Route 66 Places of Interest & Restaurant Listing)							incl					
Wednesday Sept 9th		8AM-5PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"												
		10AM VTCI Board of Directors Meeting & General Membership Meeting							incl					
		2PM Tour - Lowell Observatory Includes "Cosmic Highways: A Centennial Tour Experience"							30					
Thursday Sept 10th		7PM "Get Your Kicks at the Evening Mix" - Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar							27					
		8AM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"												
		8AM-10AM VTCI Judge Training							incl					
		1PM-4PM Tour - Riordan Mansion - Includes Route 66 Centennial Exhibit							18					
Friday Sept 11th		5PM Guest Speaker - Jim Hinckley							incl					
		6:30PM "Fun, Fun, Fun" - Thunderbird Buffet with Cash Bar							68					
		8AM-8:30AM Owners/Operators Meeting							incl					
		9:30 AM VTCI Concours Judging												
Saturday Sept 12th		9:30-11:30 Swap Meet							incl					
		2PM Tour - Museum of Northern Arizona Includes "Route 66: Wagon Road to the Mother Road" Exhibit							18					
		8AM Driving Tour Option #1 - Route 66 Roadtrip - Seligman, Ashfork, Williams Breakfast & Shopping in Seligman, Visit Ash Fork's Route 66 Museum, Williams Lunch, Historic Route 66 Downtown District & Grand Canyon Railway Depot							N/C					
		9:30AM Pickup Box Lunch for Driving Tour Option #2							30					
		10AM Driving Tour Option #2 - Sunset Crater Volcano & Wupaki National Monuments National Park Service Requires Entrance Fee of \$25 per vehicle - Free w/America the Beautiful Pass.							N/C					
		5:30PM Cocktails w/cash bar / 6:30PM Awards Banquet; Plated. Mark preference.							72					
		Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐ Prime Rib ☐ Vegetarian ☐												
Polo Shirt	S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		38	
T-Shirt	S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		25	
Hat												25		
2027 Calendar												25		
Make Check Payable to > VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club Int'l) Cutoff Date For Mail Registrations: August 8, 2026												MAIL to: VTCI c/o ROGER INGRAM 6137 W Poinsettia Dr Glendale, AZ 85304-2515		\$
HOTEL: Little America Hotel 2515 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 Rate: \$189 per night (Cutoff Date: August 8, 2026) (800) 352-4386														
Reservation Link: http://bookings.hotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=5193916&hotelID=4649 (Please Let Reservation Clerk Know You Are With The Thunderbirds International Convention.)														Total Enclosed (US Funds)



70th Anniversary Pin

While Supplies Last!

\$10.00 each

Celebrating the
Thunderbird

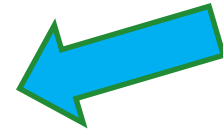


Order Today! Mail check and indicate quantity to:
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

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
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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
nancylouseyfarth@gmail.com

JoAnn Rodriguez, Event Reservations
248-719-0160
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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!



Happy July 4th



Barry Burnham, Newsletter
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barry.burnham@me.com