



# T Bird News

North Texas Vintage  
Thunderbirds, Inc.  
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 21 Issue 1: Jan 2024

January 31, 2024

## Message From the President-by Walter Martin

Looks like I will be working harder in my retirement than I did at my job! I have 3 vehicles to restore for customers and that is keeping me busy these days.

We had a good meeting at Boomer Jacks but it was a little noisy and I had to get Bonnie to do a lot of the talking (she has a louder voice than I).

I will be turning 70 this Feb 2 but it just feels like any other birthday and just another milestone to pass.

I will be turning over the presidency to Janet in March and we still need 2 people to fill the VP positions so someone needs to stand up. Hope to see everyone at the Spring Creek BBQ in Bedford in Feb.

Walter Martin  
President NTVT

## Inside this issue:

Msg from the Pres	1
February Mtg Info	1
Jan Mtg Minutes	2
Dues Notice	2
Tech Day Interest	3
Danny Hutto Passes Away	3
NTVT 2024 Calendar	4
Retro Resources	5
2025 Convention	5
VTCI Convention Info	6
CCC Car Show Info	6
Redone Webpage	7
Election Info	7-8
Baby Needs Shoes	8
Contacts	8

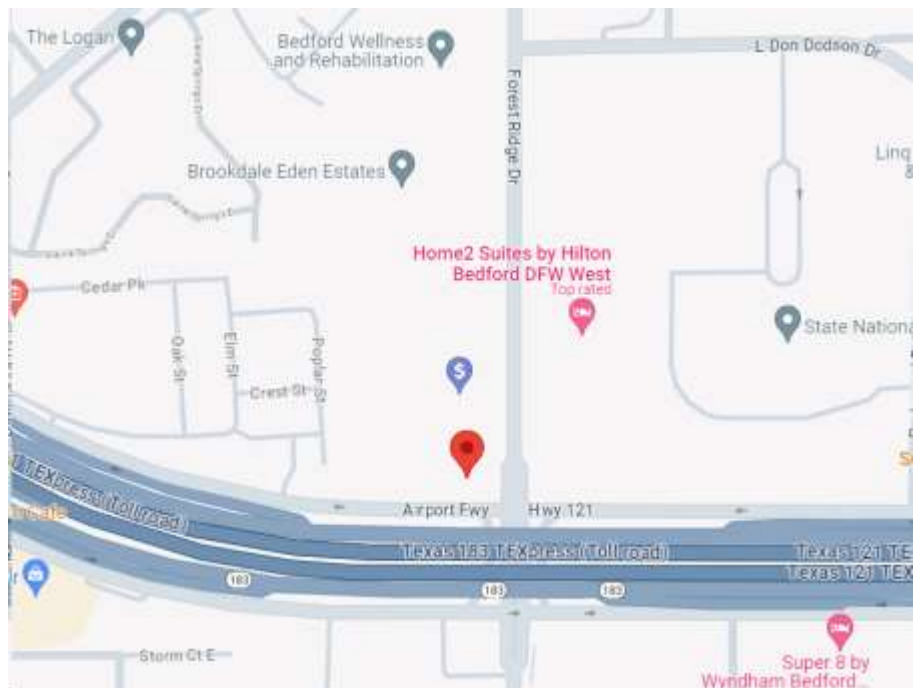
## Bring Your Valentine to the February Meeting

Join us on **Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Spring Creek Bar B Que, 1509 Airport Fwy, Bedford, TX 76021-6626.

The restaurant is on the corner of Fossil Ridge Dr. and Airport Freeway.

Watch your email for your reminder; when it arrives, please reply so we can get an accurate headcount for the restaurant.

When you arrive at the restaurant, go ahead and get in the line for your meal and bring it to the private room on the right side of the restaurant.





## January Meeting Minutes

Forty-Six people attended the January meeting at Boomer Jacks. Walter opened the meeting thanking and recognizing the great attendance and our new member and those members that came from a long way. Larry Gunnell, members, was able to come to the meeting from Wichita Falls, TX. Our new members were Gary Young and Ron & Mary Young, and our guests were Richard Klein and Matt & Donna Howell.

Walter presented the calendar of meetings developed by the NTVT board. The members made several suggestions and a final calendar will be released with the newsletter. The board asked for people to volunteer to be hosts for each meeting. Many meeting hosts have been filled but several remain open. The hosts would be responsible for communications with the location for attendance.

Jan asked the people going on the Alaska cruise next to stay for a short status meeting.

Brian Carron, the south-central regional director, gave a presentation on behalf of the VTCI, our parent organization. Brian noted that the VTCI board has committed to an international convention in the south-central region in 2025. The six clubs in the region will be asked to support this effort with the VTCI board taking the lead. Each club will be asked to provide someone to participate in the planning and coordination of the convention. The NTVT board will be polled to gauge support for this effort and respond to Brian.

George Antochy announced that there would be no Yellow Rose Classic this July. The venue for the last few years is no longer available. The Mustang club is in conversations with venues for 2025 but no final spot has been set at this time.

James Oglesby showed several books he has found on the Retro Tbirds. James noted that there is a lot of information of interest to Retro owners in them. Information on these books will be included in the next newsletter.

Mark Ibbotson gave a demonstration on the redesigned website for NTVT. The site is [www.ntvtbird.org](http://www.ntvtbird.org). The new designed by Mark will include all the pertinent information on the home page with links to other Tbird related pages and sites. This includes links to email officers rather than phone and email addresses on the open site. The new website also includes a members-only page for personal information. You will need a password to access this page.

Door prizes were won by Al and Delphine. Brad won the 50/50.

Submitted by Brad Kershaw, NTVT Secretary

## Annual NTVT Dues are Due! Do it! Do it! Do it!

If you have not already paid your 2024 NTVT **DUES**, please **DO!** Please send your \$30 check, made out to NTVT, to our treasurer, Tom Ossorio at 1619 Caplin Dr. Arlington, TX. 76018. It's a bargain, as I bet there isn't much at the grocery store that costs the same now as it did a year ago....much less 5 or 10 years ago! So please grab your checkbook and send that check to Tom today!



## Are You Interested?

Tim Stephens, NTVT member and owner of a Retro, recently suggested we put on a Tech Day for all of you Thunderbird owners who need to tackle some automotive repairs or maintenance on your Tbird, but who aren't quite confident of doing things independently or who might not have the tools or the knowledge required. We have quite a few guys in the club who are mechanical by nature, and who have encountered some common issues on their birds. They would likely be very willing to share their knowledge and skills assisting you in some tasks that can be done by the average owner. A couple members have shops with lifts and might be willing to block off a day where everyone can gather to get things done. Remember the adage that many hands make light work?

Is this something you would like to see happen? If so, let your board know! If we set a date, then you can order the parts you need and bring them to the Tech Day.

## Sad News

Many of our long-time members will recall the Hutto family from Eastland, TX. Their daughter, Virginia, first joined NTVT over 10 years ago to learn more about her Bullet Bird which she, her fiancé, and her father planned to restore. She was young, excited, and full of life; Sadly, Virginia was killed at the age of 24 on October 14, 2013 in an accident on Ranger Hill. Her death, however, led to the rebuilding of that stretch of I20 making that area much safer so that future accidents like the one that claimed her life could be prevented.

The club supported her parents, giving them a lifetime membership in the club. Danny and Catherine attended the 2015 South Central VTCI Regional Convention hosted by NTVT at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington. While there, Catherine saw a thunderbird belonging to a visitor at the convention, and fell in love with it. Danny persuaded the gentlemen then and there to sell him the t-bird for Catherine.

Eventually, NTVT helped Danny and Catherine put on two Benefit Car Shows at their ranch in Eastland. Several members won great door prizes and everyone who attended enjoyed the Hutto's hospitality. Danny and Catherine became very active in raising, breaking, and training mules; they formed a company called Hutto Mules and Farming, which continues to operate today. Whatever Danny did, he did with gusto! He was known throughout the area as a generous and kind man, with a quirky sense of humor.

Just last week, we found out that Danny passed away January 18, 2024. He now has joined his beloved Catherine and Virginia. Rest in Peace, Danny. To read his complete obituary, follow the [Legacy](#) link to read it online. Or Google Danny Harold Hutto, Eastland TX.





## NTVT 2024 Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	Host--Volunteer
*January 20	Boomer Jack's	Bonnie Kershaw
*February 17	Spring Creek-Bedford 817 545 0184	Need a host
*March 16	Fred's	Jan Young
March 16	Christian Classic Cruisers Car Show 5-9 p.m.	
*April 20	?Rosa's in Murphy	Walter Martin
May 4	Cedar Creek Car Show	Dom Zanella_?
*May 18	Sugar Ridge Winery 972 666 2888	Need a host
*June 15	Dan Hubert's house-Kemp	Dan Hubert
June 29	4th of July Party/Martins	Delphiene Martin
*July 20	Real Texas Café 817 864 8400	Mary Brewer
*August 17	Streetside (817) 764-8000	Need a host
August 7-11	VTCI Inter Conv, Grand Rapids MI	
August 11-18	Alaska Trip Jan Young	
*September 21	Wheels for Wellness	Tom Ossorio
*October 19	Eloy's Halloween Mtg	Eloy/Kitty Villafranca
November 2nd or 9th	Day Trip	Need a host
*December 1	Saltgrass-Bedford	Betsy Haber
*January 18	Sunny's Restaurant, FW 8173499823	Need a host

Please note that the locations for all the meetings are proposed and subject to change. The regular meetings are noted with an \* and other activities are shown in blue.

Several of the regular meetings currently have no volunteer host listed. The job of the volunteer host is to contact the suggested restaurant, establish availability for a group of approximately 40-50 persons for lunch on a Saturday and then follow up with a call to the restaurant two or three days before the meeting to give them a headcount. If a proposed location is not available, the volunteer host can contact the VP of Events for help in finding a new location. *If you think you could fulfil those duties, please contact Jan Young and sign up for the month of your choice!*

Every month, about a week before each meeting or activity, you will receive an email with complete details and a request to RSVP. Please reply promptly so we can get accurate headcounts to the restaurants. With a group as large as ours, it is important!



## Resources For Retro Owners

James Oglesby showed us some Thunderbird books of his at the last meeting. These might be helpful to a lot of our members, so we took pics for those of you who could not be at the meeting.



The first book on the left is Insider's Secrets of the 2002-2005 Thunderbird, by Philip Wegener, with a 2018 copywrite date. It looks like it may be difficult to find, but it shows up on Ebay periodically.

The second book is Retro Thunderbird by Don Narus (for sale on Amazon for \$13.95); and the last one is Thunderbird, 2002 by Michael Lamm (also available on Amazon as a used hard-cover book from \$7.21 to \$16.80).

Retro owners especially might want to place an order. Keep those Amazon trucks going!

## In The Year 2025....

If you read "In the Year 2525" instead of 2025, then you are likely too young to remember that song reference. I'm afraid I am showing my age!

At any rate, our VTCI Regional Director, Brian Carron and his wife, Marilyn, attended our last meeting at Boomer Jacks and shared some information about the exciting prospect of our club's assisting with an International Convention to be held here in the North TX area in 2025. This convention will actually be hosted by the VTCI Board, but the clubs of the South Central Region will assist with manpower and financial support. Putting on a convention is a lot of work, but sharing the work with other clubs should be a fun way to approach it.

Watch the future newsletters for more information as it comes available.



## VTCI News

Our parent club, Vintage Thunderbird Club International, will be hosting an international convention from August 7 through August 11th in Grand Rapids, MI.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum, the Gilmore Car Museum, and the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in addition to the many fun activities on site at the convention which is being held



at the Grand Rapids Doubletree Hotel, 4747 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512-1915 USA . You can book your room online by going through the VTCI website ([vintagethunderbird.net](http://vintagethunderbird.net)) and clicking on

On the Events page. Or you can call the hotel directly at 616-957-0100. Be sure to mention the Thunderbird Club to get the convention rates of \$105 per night.

*Book Your Room Today!*  
**Held at the Grand Rapids DoubleTree hotel.**

Both VTCI members and non-members can download registration forms on the events page of the VTCI website. The deadline for mail-in registrations is July 12, 2024.

This sounds like a terrific convention. You will have the chance to enter your Tbird into the concours judging. The people you will meet, and the fun you will have will make this week an unforgettable one.

## NTVT To Be Honored as Club of the Month

The Classic Christian Cruisers Car Club will be honoring NTVT at their March meeting, which will be on Saturday, March 16 from 5-9 p.m. This is the same day as our regular March meeting, but we will be finished in plenty of time to get back from Fred's Restaurant on the west side of Ft Worth to the CCC location at the Birdville Stadium in Hurst at the corner of MidCities Blvd and Precinct Line Rd.

The CCC shows are always a lot of fun, and NTVT will get a club trophy for being the Club of the Month. Marian Herbst will need a count of all who plan to attend by March 1st. Call Marian or watch your inbox for an email giving you the opportunity to RSVP.

Let's rally for a great turnout to show off all our beautiful birds at this event!



## REDESIGNED WEB PAGE!

If you haven't seen the redesigned web page yet, don't delay! Go to [www.ntvtbird.org](http://www.ntvtbird.org) and check it out. It is simplified and improved, and it has a password-protected section just for members of NTVT. This will improve our ability to communicate with each other and find information that we don't necessarily want to share with the whole world. For example, that members-only page will have contact information for all the members, making it easier for you to contact people in the club.

The Board would like to thank Mark Ibbotson for the tremendous job he has done improving the website.

If you are a member of NTVT, you should have gotten an email with instructions for accessing the Members-Only section of our website. If you need help accessing that site, contact Mark Ibbotson or Bonnie Kershaw.



**Now we need help from ALL of YOU!** Start sending Mark or Bonnie pictures of your Tbird out and about. Take pictures at all our events and send them as well. We need you to help Mark keep our website fresh and up to date with lots of Beautiful Birds!

## Election Season Is Here

NTVT holds its annual officer elections in March each year. Normally, we fill in only one position each year, that of the 2nd VP, as each officer moves upward on the leadership ladder. As a reminder, the 2nd VP is in charge of membership, the 1st VP is in charge of Events, door prizes, and filling in for the Pres in the case of his or her absence; and the President runs the monthly meetings, calls Board meetings when necessary, and handles other business items.

This year, we will elect both 1st and 2nd VP as our current 1st VP, Ben King, has resigned his position for personal reasons. That means we need at least two people to volunteer for these vacancies. If you feel you would like to help in a leadership capacity for NTVT, please



## Officers 2023

President: Walter Martin  
972-896-7633

[walmar01@verizon.net](mailto:walmar01@verizon.net)

1st Vice President (Events):

Ben King

817-366-5464

[benking5464@gmail.com](mailto:benking5464@gmail.com)

2nd Vice Pres. (Membership):

Jan Young

214-538-2078

[memepops1970@yahoo.com](mailto:memepops1970@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Brad Kershaw

817-253-3161

[thunderbrad@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderbrad@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Tom Ossorio

817-705-9106

[Tom.Ossorio@dsolutions.biz](mailto:Tom.Ossorio@dsolutions.biz)

Newsletter Editor:

Bonnie Kershaw

817-271-2952

[bradandbonnie@yahoo.com](mailto:bradandbonnie@yahoo.com)

## Election Info, Continued

please contact Bonnie Kershaw, Jan Young, Walter Martin, or Tom Ossorio. This time, the office of 2nd VP is a 3-year commitment as one moves up to being president in the third year. The term for the 2nd VP will be two years, with the second year as president.

The Board would like to thank Ben King for his dedication and his service over the last three years. Ben actually served in the 2nd VP position for 2 years because of Covid.

Thanks , Ben, and we wish you well! We plan to see you at many meetings, even if you aren't an officer!

## Baby Needs A New Pair of Shoes

Marian Herbst shares her story about getting new tires for her Baby Bird:

First, Rick (Viera) got my old tires off, took them to Discount Tire to get the rims off, then cleaned them like never before. He then painted the rotors and adjusted the brakes. When the new tires from Diamondback came in, I had the mobile unit come and mount and balance the new tires. Then Rick put them back on the Bird.

So, the baby bird now has new shoes.

Thanks Rick for all the hard work!



Visit These Websites:

NTVT

[www.ntvtbird.org](http://www.ntvtbird.org)

Or check us out on Facebook:

[NTVT Thunderbirds](https://www.facebook.com/NTVTThunderbirds)

VTCL, our Parent Club

[www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net)

The Thunderbird Registry

<http://www.tbirdregistry.com/>