



T Bird News

North Texas Vintage
Thunderbirds, Inc.
Local Chapter of VTCI

Volume 21 Issue 5: May 2024

May 30, 2024

Message From the President-by Jan Young

Greetings!

Thanks to all of you who attended the May meeting at Logan's in Hurst. The food was good, the company was excellent! I was particularly happy because our Logan's in Lewisville closed a couple of years ago due to all the road construction on I-35. It was one of our favorite restaurants.

On the subject of T-Birds, Jim just finished replacing the headlights on our 2002 Retro and the difference is amazing. They are very bright. We can see better and they really look good, too.

For those who are going on the Holland America cruise to Alaska, you can log in to their website and do your Check In now. If you have any problems, please let me know.

I hope to see you at our next meeting.

June 15th Meeting—Location Change!

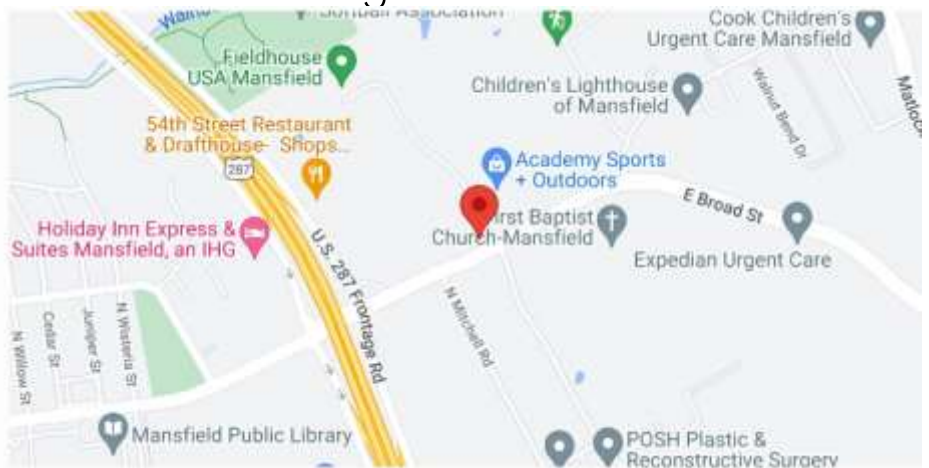
Due to some unforeseen complications, we are unable to have our June meeting in Kemp at the home of Dan Hubert as had been planned. Instead, head south to Mansfield. Meet us on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 11:30 at First Watch, 1695 E. Broad St., Suite 111, Mansfield, 76063.

John Garfield, our VP in charge of events, highly recommends this restaurant, saying it has great American food. I took a peek at the menu, and it looks like a great selection of fresh breakfast items as well as delicious-looking salads and sandwiches. If you would like a pre-view of the menu, check it out [here](#). Then on Saturday, June 15, drive your Tbird to Mansfield for some yummy grub and, even better, a chance to spend time with your friends!

We should have the new promo cards, approved at the May meeting, available for distribution at the June meeting. Come get yours!

Inside this issue:

Msg from the Pres	1
June Mtg Info	1
April Mtg Minutes	2
Sympathy	2
Tech Day in October?	3
Grand Brook Memory Car Show	3-4
Arlington Car Show Pics	4
Getting to Know New Members-Rob Ivy	5
Our History in VTCI & NTVT by Brad Kershaw	6
Upcoming Tbird Conventions	6-7
NTVT Calendar	7
1965 For Sale	8
Contact Info	8





May 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes by Brad Kershaw, Secretary

Thirty members attended the meeting at Logan's Roadhouse. Jim and Jan returned from a great trip touring Australia and New Zealand. Jan recognized Sadie Stepina for her 101st birthday. Jim Lowenburg also had a birthday this last week.

Joan Haney volunteered to host the August meeting. When a place is selected, we will distribute the information in the newsletter.

Brad noted that Brian Carron, the south-central regional director, is continuing to plan for the VTCI international convention in the south-central region in 2025. A Zoom meeting was held on Tuesday the 23d of April. Brad, John, and a rep from the Houston club participated. The convention has been set for September 10th – 13th 2025. Negotiations are in process for a hotel in Grapevine. Jan noted that even though it might be close to home for some it was much more fun to stay at the hotel. This also helps the organizers with rates on a larger number of rooms.

Mark Ibbotson called during the meeting to wish all well from [Albuquerque](#), NM. Mark and Anita will continue to be members and Mark will maintain the website from Albuquerque. He will still need pictures and content from all of us here.

Ben King also called in during the meeting to say Hi and that he was thinking of us.

Bonnie showed samples of a new NTVT card for us to distribute to prospective members. The new cards will have sample pictures of seven series of Thunderbirds. This should convey the idea that all Thunderbirds are welcome. The other side will have the NTVT logo with website information. The club was unanimous in their support and directed Bonnie to procure the cards.

Mary noted that Glen was at a car show honoring fallen police officers and first responders with his Thunderbird.

Jan highlighted several upcoming events:

June 1st; The Grand Brook Memory Care Center car show

June 29th; The Martin's annual 4th of July party

George noted that the Mustang clubs monthly cruise-in is now at Hooters, 2750 I-20, Grand Prairie, TX 75052 on the second Saturday of the month from 3 to 6 pm.

Ginny and Darrell won the door prizes. Mary won the 50/50.

Extending Deepest Sympathy

On Tuesday, May 7th, we suffered a great loss with the passing of Lois Bretz, NTVT member and mother of Delphiene and Walter Martin. We will always remember Lois's sweet smile and how she enjoyed attending the monthly meetings and lunches. We send our deep condolences to Delphiene and Walter.

We also send sympathy to member Mike Kelly, whose wife Kathy passed away May 13th, and to Betty Pickard, whose husband Bob passed away April 13th.



Tech Day—Are You In?

Members have expressed an interest in having a Tech Day where individuals could bring their cars and get some instruction, assistance, or even just some fellowship while accomplishing some repairs or maintenance on our Thunderbirds. We will have 2 or 3 “stations” where repairs can be going on at the same time. There is one lift for jobs that require. We also need “experts” who have done some of these jobs before and who are willing to share their knowledge and tips. We all know there are some jobs that require an extra hand or two, and some that are just more fun with friends around to “kibitz.”



This event will be hosted at the home of Brad and Bonnie Kershaw in Burleson later this year when the weather cools, probably one of the first two Saturdays in October. If you have a tech task or two that you would like to tackle that day, we need you to let us know which date (October 5th or October 12th) is best for you, and what kind of repair or job you need to complete. I will pass around a sign-up sheet at the next few meetings, and I will send out an email in July to give you the opportunity to sign up for a slot on Tech Day. When you sign up, tell us what job you have in mind, and what tools you might need to borrow so we can make sure someone can bring the necessary tools. Make sure if you need parts, you get everything you need ahead of time and bring it all with you so your task can be completed and you can drive home!

When we know how many will attend, we will make a decision on bringing in some food or doing a potluck. We don't want experts, mechanics, spectators, or any other interested persons to get “HANGRY” or thirsty!

Grand Brook Memory Care Center Car Show

NTVT didn't let threatening clouds keep us from showing up as six cars and 15 members and friends rolled in to the Grand Brook Memory Care Center in Garland on Saturday, June 1. Unlike many car shows with lots of cars, awards, etc., this small event is more a “show and shine” allowing the residents to walk around the cars and admire them, often bringing back sweet memories from long ago. Their smiles are worth more than any trophy or plaque! We also enjoyed each others' company while eating a nice lunch provided by the facility, especially the cheesecake dessert, which deserved a trophy of its own!





More Showin' and Shinin' on June 1st



Left: Seeing the Tbirds brought back sweet memories to this resident and her daughter.

The lunch bunch! Thanks to all who came out.



Also on June 1, Marian Herbst and Rick Viera and Bill Stepina represented NTVT at a car show in Old Downtown Arlington.

Rick says a few rain drops didn't stop Marian from making her Early Bird sparkle! And Bill's '66 always makes a statement!



Thank You from The Martins

I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts for Walter and I with the passing of mom. Mom loved her TBird friends. She wore her TBird shirt at least twice a week. She loved to go to the monthly meetings and visit with all her friends. I appreciated how you were so sweet to her on her dementia days when she would ask the same questions over and over. Y'all were truly a blessing to her.

We are truly grateful to be a part of such a loving group of people in our club.





Getting To Know You...by Rob Ivy

My favorite styling era of American cars is the late '50s to early '60s, where space exploration influenced everything, including automotive design. I've always admired the 'bullet bird' Thunderbirds since encountering them at local car shows.

I've owned my 1962 Thunderbird since February of 2023. I found the car in Adel, Iowa, owned by the previous family for 30 years. The car is an Omaha DSO, so it's been a midwestern car all its life. It's a bit scary to consider a car from the rust belt. When I flew up to Des Moines to inspect the car in person, I could tell it had had the rear quarters replaced and had received a paint job at one time, but overall, it had avoided excessive tampering over the years. The car isn't perfect; it's just a 'good ol' girl' ready to be driven. The family genuinely cared about where the car was going, which demonstrated how much they enjoyed it. After addressing some deferred maintenance issues and making drivability upgrades (the alternator conversion was a game changer!), I've managed to add about 3000 miles to the odometer.

It's a pleasure to be part of this great club!

[Editor's Note: We asked Rob to tell us a little about himself so we can get to know more about one of our newest members, and he graciously submitted the above. Thanks, Rob! And it is truly our pleasure to have you with us! And for those members who like to get a little greasy working on their own birds, I think Rob will fit right in with the mechanics out there; check out his posts on our [NTVT Facebook Page!](#)]



Above: Viewing the 2024 Solar Eclipse in style!



Above: Nothing improves curb appeal like a '62 Bird!



Watch out, Rob. It won't be long before your little darlin' will get behind the wheel and be asking for the keys to the Tbird! It happens before you can blink!



Our History in the VTCI and NTVT by Brad Kershaw

Bonnie and I came to Texas in 1985 and brought our 1960 Thunderbird with us. To say it was rough is an understatement. I did have it running but no mosquitos could live in the smoke screen around it. After some years in Texas, I decided to start the restoration process. I had developed a love for old birds, so I purchased a 1964 Thunderbird to “drive” while I restored my '60. This purchase turned into a 21-year restoration process of its own complicated by also being my daily driver for several years.

While looking for parts and expertise on Thunderbirds I found the VTCI on the web. This was a great resource for parts, and I learned about the 2002 South Central regional convention in New Braunfels. This sounded like a great opportunity to drive the Thunderbird and see some of the country in South Texas. Unfortunately, the '64 only made it as far as San Marcos, where it spent the weekend at the Ford dealer. That is a story for another time. We had to rent a car to make the trip to the convention.

We arrived late for the opening dinner and were greeted by Marilyn Paliani. Lou and Marilyn along with the South Texas Vintage Thunderbirds were the hosts of the convention. This first experience set the bar very high for making us feel that we belonged to something special. When Marilyn discovered we were not part of a local club and lived in Arlington, she introduced us to David & Tina Silva and Bill Strickland. Again, we were welcomed with open arms and learned the DFW area was home to a lot of wonderful people who belonged to the NTVT.

Harold Allen had just assumed the president's role from Maurice Black. Harold felt that the president's position should have term limits. In 2004, I assumed the roll of President which would not have been possible without the support of David Silva as VP. David served as VP with many presidents. Bonnie started as editor of the newsletter about the same time. Both Bonnie and David made many of us presidents appear much better than we are.

After twenty-two years of VTCI & NTVT we are still here enjoying great company and those wonderful Thunderbirds.

Conventions Coming Up

Want to travel and spend time with other Thunderbird owners? Check your calendars and take advantage of The VTCI 2024 International Convention coming up August 7th through 11th in Grand Rapids Michigan.

You will have the opportunity to visit the fantastic [Gilmore Automotive Museum](#), tour the famous [Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park](#), and take in the historic [Gerald Ford Presidential Museum](#). And, of course, there will be judging of many different classifications of Thunderbirds, bar-b-que, beer, and banquets, awards presentations, and lots of good folks to meet or with whom to renew friendships!

Get more information and find registration forms for both VTCI members and non-members on the Events page of the [VTCI Website](#). Deadline for Registration by mail is July 12, 2024. Don't wait until then to book your room at the [Grand Rapids Double Tree Hotel](#) by





Thunderbird Conventions, continued

Hilton. Use the Group code: XVI to get the convention group rate; last day to book a room is July 17th.



If you own an early bird, you might want to attend the 2024 CTCI International Concours Convention a little later in August, from Aug 20-25. This event will be hosted by the Hawkeye Thunderbird Club at the Sheraton West Des Moines, 1800 50th Street West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 . Book your room at this [link](#) to get the group rate. Check out the [CTCI website](#) to get more information on the fun activities that are planned, including a visit to John Wayne's birthplace and museum and the opportunity to visit the outstanding Dennis Albaugh automobile collection which is not open normally to the public.

NTVT 2024 Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	Host--Volunteer
June 1	Grand Brook Memory Care Car Show	Tom Ossorio
*June 15	First Watch, 1695 E Broad, Mansfield	John Garfield
June 29	4th of July Party/Martin's	Delphiene Martin
*July 20	Real Texas Café	Mary Brewer
*August 17	Location to be Determined	JoAn Haney, 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 & Party	Eloy/Kitty Villafranca
November 2nd or 9th	Day Trip	Need a host/Planner
*December 8	Saltgrass-Bedford	Betsy Haber
*January 18	Sunny's Restaurant, FW	Bonnie Kershaw

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.

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!



Officers 2024

President:

Jan Young

214-549-1558

memepops1970@yahoo.com

1st Vice President (Events):

John Garfield

682-312-5733

j-g.garfield@att.net

2nd Vice Pres. (Membership):

Mary Brewer

817-454-0505

ntcreative@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Brad Kershaw

817-253-3161

thunderbrad@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Tom Ossorio

817-705-9106

Tom.Ossorio@dsolutions.biz

Newsletter Editor:

Bonnie Kershaw

817-271-2952

bradandbonnie@yahoo.com

Website Editor:

Mark Ibbotson

972-816-3074

m_ibbot@sbcglobal.net

1965 T-Bird Convertible For Sale



Visit These Websites:

NTVT

www.ntvtbird.org

Or check us out on Facebook:

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

VTCl, our Parent Club

www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

The Thunderbird Registry

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

FOR SALE: Bird has good engine and transmission (rebuilt), redone interior, all new top component controls, cylinders, and switches, AC, rebuilt radio, good tires, won second place in Driver Division of VTCl. Haven't driven it in three years but kept under wraps on carport, asking \$22,000 or will consider best offer.

Call John Garfield, 682-312-5733 (home phone—no texts) or email him at:

j-g.garfield@att.net