



# SOONER NEWS



## *The Sooner Thunderbird Car Club*

### Sooner Thunderbird Club Officers

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### From Our President:



Thunderbird members here we are in the 4th quarter of 2018. Where did this year go anyway? I remember many friends telling me as you grow older time seems to pass quickly and I had a hard time understanding their reasoning. However, today I realize what they were trying to tell me years ago. I believe it's important to stay busy as we grow older, and our Sooner Thunderbird Car Club has definitely stayed busy with the many events we have participated in this year. I thank each of our members for helping make these events successful.

Our next meeting will be held at The Feast Restaurant 6512 N.W. Expressway OKC at 1:00 pm Saturday, November 10th. It is becoming more difficult to find restaurants with a private meeting room, and we must have at least 20 members at Feast Restaurant to avoid a fee for the usage of their private dining area. Please make every effort to be at our November meeting.

We will be discussing several items like what organization to donate toys for children at Christmas which we have taken part in for several years. We will also be talking about Santa Swap which is a fun gift giving event for our members. Food choices for our Christmas Party will also be discussed.

We are entering the Holiday Season and I want to let all of our members know I wish each of you the best for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Again please mark your calendar for our Christmas Party to be held at the Embassy Suites Ballroom 3 Tuesday December 11, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm 1815 S. Meridian, OKC.

Hope to see you on the 10th.  
Terry





# Celebrations & Announcements

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

10- ROSETTA THOMAS

14 - JIM MCNEW

28- TOM DOUGLAS



16 - KEN & MARY BERKEL

17 - SAM & KITTY  
LAWRENCE

~ The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age. ~ Lucille Ball



## Next Meeting

Saturday , November 10 @ 1:00 p.m.

Feast Buffet and Bar

6512 Northwest Expressway.

*We need at least 20 people in attendance to waive the room rental fee. Make plans now to be there.*



The Holidays are fast approaching and soon we will be collecting toys for underprivileged children for Christmas. We are looking for reputable Charitable organizations who are in need of donations. If you volunteer for or know of such an organization in need of toys, please contact Terry at the the next meeting.





# Meeting Minutes

## Sooner Thunderbird Car Club

10-13-2018

Our meeting this month was held at China King on N. Penn in Oklahoma City.

Terry Wood opened our meeting at 1:40 pm. He mentioned we still have window stickers for sale. They are \$4.00 each.

Terry mentioned that we may have a couple wanting to come back to the club and could possibly be willing to fix our website.

Ron Pruitt brought up the saddle gas tanks that the retro birds have. At our meeting with the Thunderbird Nest last month it was mentioned how the secondary gas pump can fail and not switch over as needed.

Terry asked us, "How many of us knew there was a Cabin Filter?" He then handed out photocopies explaining how to change those out. Filters are available at local auto supply stores.

Dick Ingram handed out our financial report. He also shared an article from The Daily Oklahoman about our Thunderbirds with the tag line of 'Before it was classic- it was old.' And mentioned the expense of rebuilding/restoring an old car.

Paul Thomas shared with us regarding the next Thunderbird.nest trip to Walker, Minn., August 21 -25<sup>th</sup> 2019. Afterwards they will travel down beside the Mississippi River to Natches, MS. All are welcomed to attend.

Terry warned us about our next meeting where we will vote for a new president. And possibly, having the term length changed to one year instead of two and that the Vice-President would then become the president after that year. This would become effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Dick Ingram and Anita Lee will retain their current positions.

Our Christmas party this year will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 10 pm. At the Embassy Suites, 1815 S. Meridian in OKC. This is where we held it last year and they did a great job.

We will have our annual SANTA SWAP so all attending will need to bring a gift for the exchange. We may also collect items for a local charity, more info on that is pending.

Our meeting for the month of November will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>, at Feast Buffet, 6512 NW Expressway, OKC. At our usual time of 1 pm. We will need a minimum of 20 people to avoid having to pay the \$100.00 rental fee.

Those in attendance were:

Roy Snider, LaJuana Smith, John and Toni Harrelson, RaSonya and Ron Pruitt, Paul and Rosetta Thomas and Kamre, Jan and Dick Ingram, Dick and Donnie Jennings, Terry Wood, Mike and Kim Boudreau, and Anita Lee.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Anita Lee*



## More Announcements

### New Club Officers to be Elected

In accordance with the by-laws of the Sooner Thunderbird Car Club, a new slate of officers must be elected every two years. Unfortunately, this means that we will be losing two of our valued leaders, Terry Wood and Gary Ogilvie. (Dick and Anita have agreed to continue on in their positions.) While Terry and Gary have done an outstanding job of choosing meeting locations, presiding over the meetings, coordinating activities, providing the necessary information for parades, cruises, auctions and all of the other duties that befell them, it is time for someone else to step up and take over. The success of the Sooner Thunderbird Club rests not just in the hands of the officers, but in all of its members as well. All of us should feel compelled to do our part to help grow our club and keep it functioning. If you are interested in being a part of the slate of officers for next year, please contact Terry or one of the other officers. Election will be at the November meeting. Don't wait for someone to ask, step up and volunteer. And don't think that you would have to do it alone, the whole club is here to help. Thank you for your consideration.



**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

**Embassy Suites - Ballroom 3**

**1815 N. Meridian**

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**More info in next  
newsletter**

**RSVP w/Terry**





## *T-Bird Talk*

# Why the Ford Thunderbird Is One of the Most Important Cars Ever

Legendary cars usually come from a time and place that can't be replicated. If the idea appeared too early or too late, it may not have happened at all. That's certainly the case with the Ford Thunderbird, The Blue Oval's personal car that re-energized the company, came to embody an entire decade, and launched a segment that would go on to dominate the American landscape within a few decades. To the casual observer, the Thunderbird is an icon: a sports car with a 50-year history that's the rolling embodiment of nostalgia. But like most legends, the true story is a lot more complicated. Hell, it isn't even really a sports car.

With an aging lineup and shrinking sales, Ford was in dire straits after World War II. The introduction of its 1949 lineup – the first all-new postwar car from The Big Three – was a much-needed smash, with a sedan, coupe, and wagon offered. But by the early '50s, a new phenomenon was beginning to take hold with American gearheads: [sports cars](#). Hundreds of GIs had fallen for the likes of MGs, Triumphs, and BMWs while stationed in Europe during and after World War II, and had begun importing and racing them. Ford had long been the performance king in the U.S. thanks to its venerable flathead V8 (Chevy wouldn't have a V8 until 1955), but these small, well-handling roadsters and coupes were a different animal altogether. Among the young design staff, the idea of Ford lacking a sports car could become a black eye for the company if that segment ever took off. So despite a famously paranoid and autocratic environment at the time, the designers secretly began work on the car without alerting the engineers, accountants, or anyone else who could shut it down.

But Henry Ford II, the 35-year-old company chairman and grandson of Henry, was falling hard for European sports cars. In 1952, Enzo Ferrari had gifted him a Ferrari 212 Barchetta, and at that year's Paris Motor Show, he took designer George Walker to task for not having something similar in the works. After the show, Walker called his team in Detroit, and told them to have a presentation ready when the men returned from Paris.

The sports car project was quickly given the green light by Ford, and took on a new sense of urgency in January 1953, when Chevrolet released the Corvette. But Chevy's

sports car was heavy and underpowered, laden with quality control issues (fiberglass construction was still in its infancy), and saddled with a wheezy inline-six and two-speed automatic transmission. This gave Ford an invaluable chance to learn from Chevy's mistakes. As the Corvette struggled, the company learned what customers wanted – and most importantly, what they didn't.

Ford's car would be steel-bodied. It would be a two-seater, but would be roomier and more refined than the Corvette. It would ride on its own unique chassis, but would share much of its trim work and interior with other Ford products. And most importantly, it would have the company's new Y-Block V8 and available manual transmission, two things Chevy didn't offer. Nearly a year after the Corvette made its debut, the Thunderbird bowed at the Detroit Auto Show to rave reviews.

But there was a problem: It wasn't a sports car. The Thunderbird was too plush, too heavy, and too sluggish to compete with the likes of MG, Triumph, Porsche, or Jaguar. Unlike Chevy, which shot itself in the foot by billing the Corvette as a sports car, Ford marketed the Thunderbird as a "personal car" instead, appealing not to weekend racers, but to well-to-do buyers who wanted something fun to drive without sacrificing comfort. Purists who expected a world-beater were disappointed. The American public, however, was not.

Ford had only planned to build 10,000 T-Birds for the 1955 model year. Within the first 10 days after its debut in Detroit, it had over 3,500 orders. It would end up selling over 16,000 before the year was out. And that was no small task; at over \$4,000 fully-loaded, the Thunderbird could be twice as expensive as a base-model Ford coupe, and as much as the far more capable Jaguar XK140.

Chevy didn't lie down either. After the Thunderbird's reveal, chief engineer Zora Arkus-Duntov successfully lobbied company brass to rethink the Corvette top-to-bottom. Needless to say, it worked. For '55, the Corvette was finally available with a V8 and manual transmission. Performance would increase dramatically over the next few years, and the rest is history.



## *T-Bird Talk (Cont)*

But while the Corvette was struggling to become “The Corvette,” Thunderbird sales were a huge success for Ford. Available with either a 292 or 312 cubic inch V8, the T-Bird could be had with a manual or automatic transmission, power seats, a removable hardtop, and a telescoping steering wheel – all luxury amenities that customers loved. Another 15,600 cars sold for 1956. In 1957, the number jumped even higher to 21,300.

Despite its popularity, the 1957 model would prove to be the last two-seater offered by Ford for 25 years. Ford had just gone public, and the bean counters had more of a say in the company than ever before. The Thunderbird sold respectably for what it was (the Corvette, by comparison, sold just over 7,200 units in '57), but the new company men felt that its profit margins were too thin, and that the segment was becoming saturated. Unfortunately, they were proven right: A bigger, chrome laden four-seat model appeared for 1958. The second-generation “Square Bird” would find nearly 200,000 buyers over the next three years.

The Thunderbird remained in constant production for 42 years, often embodying the zeitgeist of American styling more than any other car on the road. The third-generation “Bullet Bird” epitomized Space Age glamor; the fifth-generation “Glamor Birds” became bloated and baroque, but were instrumental in the rise of the Personal Luxury Coupe, which would become the most dominant American automotive segment of the 1970s. The Fox body eighth-generation car was so unpopular within the company that the sleek styling, solid handling characteristics, and strong powertrains of the next two generations were developed in response to that car. And after a five-year hiatus, the final Thunderbird was the retro-futuristic 2002-2005 two-

seater. On top of its direct styling links, it was a comfortable, luxurious, and expensive V8-powered roadster. Despite following the original car’s recipe to the letter, it was widely considered to be a flop.

That’s what makes the 1955 to '57 Thunderbird so special: It couldn’t have come from any other time or place. A few years later and Ford’s brass would’ve never been open to an exclusive, expensive, two-seater. Any earlier and it could’ve stumbled like the Corvette did. If not for the ‘Vette, Ford wouldn’t have been able to hone the car to what Americans wanted from a sporty roadster. And if the T-Bird hadn’t been a breakout success, Chevy probably would’ve followed through with its plan to axe the troublesome sports car in 1956.

Later models may have vastly outsold the original roadsters, but none are remembered as fondly. The two-seat T-Birds embody the 1950s as much as a '59 Cadillac or a '57 Chevy does. Its light, restrained design made it stand out from virtually anything else coming out of Detroit – including the Corvette – and has become nothing short of legendary. But the Thunderbird was also the first successful niche car built by one of The Big Three. It was the first time a singular model that wasn’t a big coupe, sedan, station wagon, or truck rose to the top of a company’s lineup and took hold of the public’s imagination. You may not have been able to afford a T-Bird, or it may have been too impractical for you, but you *wanted* one. It represented a lifestyle and an image that virtually everyone could aspire to. That’s something you can’t engineer into a car, and that’s something that automakers have been chasing ever since.

James Derek Sapienza





## J-Bird Tips

# 6 FALL DRIVING TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS SEASON

Ah, autumn. Gone are the humid 90 degree days filled with beach trips and cookouts, and in come the days of beautiful weather filled with football games and trips to the local pumpkin patch. The tastes of apple and pumpkin, the feel of the crisp morning air, and the sight of the beautiful red, orange and yellow foliage fill our senses. It is a wonderful time of year. The transition from summer to autumn brings all types of change, including changes to road conditions. Each season presents unique driving circumstances and fall is no different. Here are 6 fall driving tips to keep you safe on the road so you can enjoy the beautiful things that autumn has to offer.

### Fall Driving Tips:

- 1 The colorful leaves may be pretty to look at, but leaves on the road can be dangerous, especially when wet. Driving on slippery leaves can be similar to driving on ice! Leaves can also obstruct traffic lines, potholes, or pavement markings. Remember to use caution, drive slowly, and keep a safe following distance.
- 2 As kids, we all loved jumping into a good old pile of leaves that our dad raked up from the yard. But when these leaf piles are placed at curbside, they present hazards. Be aware of children playing in these mountains of leaves on the side of the road and never drive into a leaf pile.
- 3 The days are becoming shorter which means visibility is reduced. Turn on your headlights and watch for pedestrians walking or biking on the roadway at dawn, dusk, or night. Also, remember to check that all of the lights on your car are working properly.
- 4 With the time change, the sun rises and sets at different times. The sunset and sunrise may even occur during the morning and evening rush hour, producing a dangerous glare at the same time that many cars are on the road. Keep a pair of sunglasses in your car that you can wear to reduce sun glare.
- 5 The cool overnight temperatures bring morning frost. Keep a snow broom/ice remover in your car and give yourself extra time to clear your windows of frost before you start driving. Make sure your wipers and defrosters are working as they should. Also, be aware of frost on the roadways, especially when driving on bridges, overpasses, or in a shaded area.
- 6 Watch for deer! Deer accidents are common in the Fall because it's mating season. If you see a deer, proceed with caution and slow down as they often travel in groups. Remember that deer are most active at dawn and dusk.



# Upcoming Car Shows

CLASSIC CAR SHOW



**COOL AUTUMN NIGHTS SPONSORED BY INCREDIBLE PIZZA, OKC:** We are once again going back to this location. In the past most folks remember it as Gattitown Pizza. Well, it's now Incredible Pizza!

**THIS SHOW IS POSTPONED TO NOVEMBER 10TH DUE TO BAD WEATHER!**

**OPEN CAR SHOW!!! ANY AND ALL VEHICLES ARE WELCOME!!!**

It's a GREAT place to have a car show. Lots of parking, food great cars and even better folks! We have lots of trophies and classes for this show!! Trophies to 1st, 2nd and 3rd along with a LOT of special awards including Sponsor's Choice Best of Show and Coolest Car! With more than 50 classes, we have a class that will fit EVERYONE'S vehicle!

Vehicle Types: Open to all classes. See the registration form for more information.

Date and Time: November 10, 2018, 11am-4pm, Registration: 11am-12:30pm Awards at 4 pm

Location: Incredible Pizza, 5833 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73132

### Editor's Note:

Unfortunately, this car show was re-scheduled for the same day as our monthly club meeting. Fortunately, the location is just less than a mile east of the Feast restaurant on Northwest Expressway. Wouldn't it be fun to show up with a caravan of Thunderbirds to check out the cars after our meeting? (BTW- the show is sponsored by the Mustang Club.)





# Car Care Hacks

### De-Ice A Frozen Lock With Hand Sanitizer

The alcohol in hand sanitizer will melt the ice right off your car door handle. Other ways to de-ice frozen locks in a pinch include breathing warm air onto the door handle, warming your key with a lighter or applying some WD-40.



### Be Your Own Pizza Delivery Service

Who says you have to hurry home before your takeout gets cold? Why not use your seat warmer to heat up the large pizza sitting next to you? Results will probably vary, depending on how hot your seat warmers get and how long your drive is, but hey — it can't hurt to try next time you're stuck in traffic with takeout for dinner.

### Keep Your Cup Holders Clean With Cupcake Liners

Add some cupcake liners to your cup holders, and when they start to get dirty, remove and replace them! The Kids Activities Blog recommends silicone ones, which means you can pop them into the dishwasher when they're in need of a cleaning.

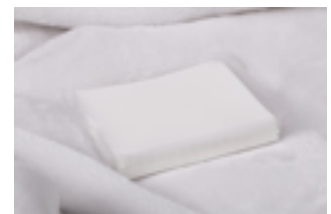


### Dryer Sheets For The Front Of Your Car

There's almost nothing worse than those pesky bugs that seem to decorate the front of your car, right? The Sugar Spice and Spilled Milk blog figured out the solution: dryer sheets. She wet the car, then put the dryer sheet in a bucket of warm water before using it to remove the bugs. So easy!

### Dryer Sheets As Air Freshener

Traditional car air fresheners can have an overwhelming scent. Dryer sheets make an ideal air freshener. You can attach one to the heating/air-conditioning vents or hide them under the seats to keep them out of sight.



### Remove Stickers With Wet Newspaper

Maybe you got a little overzealous with the political bumper stickers when you were feeling fired up, or your car is still boasting that your kid is an honor roll student even though she's now a college grad. Whatever the reason, sometimes you need to purge your car's bumper of old stickers, but anyone who's ever attempted to do this knows that it's easier said than done.

A simple way to remove old stickers without damaging your car is to use damp newspaper. Just wet a piece of newspaper and lay it over the sticker for

about 15 minutes. This will soften the adhesive residue and make it easier to wipe off. It works for stickers on the windshield as well.



# Halloween Trivia

## Halloween Trivia Questions and Answers

Halloween is one of the most popular holidays of the year. But even if you have been celebrating it since you were a kid, how much do you really know about All Hallows Eve? Test your knowledge with these fun trivia questions.

### QUESTIONS

- 1 According to superstition, if you stare into a mirror at midnight on Halloween, what will you see?
- 2 From which region in the world do pumpkins originate?
- 3 Who wrote the novel Frankenstein?
- 4 Transylvania is a region in which country?
- 5 Halloween has its origins in which ancient Celtic festival?
- 6 Which actor played Dr. Frank-n-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*?
- 7 Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?
- 8 What is the significance of seeing a spider on Halloween?
- 9 Which country celebrates the Day of the Dead starting at midnight on Oct. 31?
- 10 According to superstition, a person born on Halloween has what particular ability?

### ANSWERS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 10 | The ability to see and talk to spirits   |
| 9  | Mexico   |
| 8  | It is thought to be the spirit of a loved one watching over the person who finds the spider. |
| 7  | Fruit  |
| 6  | Tim Curry  |
| 5  | Samhain  |
| 4  | Romania  |
| 3  | Mary Shelley   |
| 2  | Central America  |
| 1  | Your future husband or wife  |

# Just for Fun - Halloween Cars



# For Sale

2002-2003 Thunderbird wheels. No road or curb rash and no center caps. Some imperfection on chrome but sure worth 35.00 each call Terry 405-694-3036



**2003 Ford Thunderbird - Desert Sky Blue**



**Only 7000 miles (that's right, seven thousand miles), always**

**garaged, perfect condition. Includes tonneau cover, ash tray (hard to find), hard top removal tool, & original window sticker. \$25,000 Contact: Jim or Sherri McNew, 373-3303**



## For Sale

**1956 T-Bird Resto-Mod**

**Great driver, dependable, custom interior and lots of extras. Contact: Jim McNew - 405-373-3303**





# Check This Out



## VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL

The Sooner Thunderbird Car Club is a sanctioned chapter of Vintage Thunderbird Club International. If you are not a member of VTCI and would like to join, you can go to VTCI's website at [www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net) and download an application form or fill it out online. As a member, you will receive 6 issues of the "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine which is full of interesting articles and tech tips. You will be able to shop for VTCI items in the club's online store, and you can also check out the Thunderbird Forum on the website for answers to some of the most asked questions about Thunderbirds.



# Calendar of Events

### November

3rd - Coffee & Cars - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. - North Park Mall

**10th - Sooner Thunderbird Club Meeting - Feast Restaurant - 6512 N.W. Expressway**

22nd - Thanksgiving



### December

1st - Coffee & Cars - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. - North Park Mall

**11th - Sooner Thunderbird Car Club Christmas Party - Embassy Suites - Ballroom 3 - 1815 N. Meridian. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

25th - Christmas



### January

1st - Happy New Year

5th - Coffee & Cars - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. - North Park Mall.

**? - Sooner Thunderbird Car Club Meeting - TBA**

