



BIRD NOTES FOR THIS MONTH:

- Newsletter revamped to modern full color format.
- Don Perry named new editor.
- Club Website adds history archives.
- Members answer call to host events.

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What's New in BIRD-LAND?

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2004

OOPS ... WOW ... AND WHERE DO I START?

There are so many things to cover in this month's President's message that I don't know where to start and don't know that I'll have anywhere near enough space to do everything justice. So I will jump right in and cover the OOPS and the WOW.

First, my OOPS. After departing our action packed quarterly meeting last Saturday, I realized that I owe Carol Glander a very big apology. Amid all of the excitement and all of the news of that meeting, I failed to announce that Carol had changed jobs and taken over as our secretary. But, more importantly I failed MISERABLY at thanking Carol for her years of effort and service as our Activities Chair and at praising her dedication to this club and our future. Please, Carol, forgive my oversight.

Now the WOW. If you are reading this, then you already know of what I speak. As you can see, BATOC has reformatted and dramatically

changed the look of "What's New In Bird-Land" and in doing so, we have significantly raised the bar on club newsletters. Through the marvels of technology and the amazing skills and dedication of Don Perry, you are



Dave Adams, President

looking at the first issue of what will be to talk of all clubs. Our new full color newsletter is packed with new features, pictures, articles, history and, as you will read, a kind of return to our roots. My words can not do

this justice, so I will simply let you explore and enjoy Don's work.

Next, please take a good look at this years activities calendar and get involved. First, by participating in the many exciting events that we have planned and second, by volunteering to jump in and organize an event. Connie Russell has done a fabulous job of collecting together event ideas and of motivating people to put them on. This WILL be an incredible year of car related activities and memories WILL be made.

And then, of course, there is the Web site. If you have not been there lately, you have no idea what you are missing. Again, Thanks to Don Perry, Skip Riggs, Smitty and many others, we have put together pages and pages of simply amazing club history ... right back to our first newsletter, pictures from the very first club outing and so much more. Take a good long look and take pride

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New Newsletter Format

The club newsletter is going back to its roots and is being published in columnar format similar to the way it was back when the club was first formed in 1958. Between 1958 and 1963, Roger Neiss published a columnar newsletter for BATOC which was the envy of all other car clubs around.

Roger was a professional printer/layout artist and put far more time and effort into its creation than most people could afford to; but thanks to computers we can once again embrace this format! And, there is one very important improvement over the labors of Mr. Neiss, the newsletter is now

able to be published in **COLOR!**

I invite you to take a look at the archive website which has all the old newsletters back to 1958 to see where the club originated and compare all that has changed and what has stayed the same.

Enjoy!

History Web Makes Debut



A view of new History section on the BATOC website.

The club has just added an extension to its existing website to accommodate the large amount of historical data and memorabilia that has been collected over the club's 45+ year existence.

Log on to www.batoc.org and go to the history tab then click Historical Archive. The section is divided into five parts designated for History, Photos, Videos, Newsletters and Documents.

There are photos from the

first days of the clubs existence and even one from the very first event! There are also old documents such as the original signed petition for incorporation by the original members which was typed on onion skin paper, old club membership applications and stationery.

The newsletter section has our old club newsletters dating back to 1958 that can be read, downloaded and printed in Adobe PDF format. It is not yet complete as there are ap-

proximately 540 issues to scan and upload but we will get it all done eventually!

The photo section is loosely sorted by year in a mosaic format. Each photo is shown in thumbnail form but can be enlarged by double-clicking with your mouse. There is also an option to upload your own photos which you are strongly encouraged to do!

It is still a long way from being finished but take a look anyway and check back often!

"The lifeblood of our club is our events where we can all get together and have a good time with our t-birds!"

Event Sponsors Found!

It is only February and we have been able to find almost enough members to volunteer to host monthly events for 2004 thanks mostly to the efforts of Activities Chairperson Connie Russell. Connie presented several creative suggestions for activities at the January brunch meeting and found willing sponsors for all but two event months.

The lifeblood of our club is our events where we can all get to-

gether and have a good time with our t-birds!

Hosting an event isn't that difficult and can be a lot of fun. Try and think of things you've done and places you've visited in the Bay Area that would be fun for all of us. Check out books such as "Bay Area Backroads" for ideas.

Another good source is to go through the old newsletter archives and see what the club has

done in the past. You can even check the month following the event to see how well it was enjoyed!

So take a look and see if something strikes your fancy that might make an enjoyable experience for all of us. Even if you are too busy to sponsor it yourself, bring the idea with you to the next meeting and perhaps someone else with more time can pick up the gauntlet.

January Meeting



The January meeting was held at the usual location at the Buttercup Restaurant in Walnut Creek. With a larger than normal turnout.

The primary order of business (aside from just having a good time) was to find event sponsors for the year; which we did thanks to Connie

Russell. THANKS CONNIE!

Samples of the new newsletter format (which you are reading now) were shown to members who were generally pleased with the new design.

Members were also informed about the new history area extension to our website (see article above).

Due to the recent increase in the

number of new members the club is now out of grille plaques, patches and aerial banners which Don Gregory will be getting bids on making some more. The director's board meeting was set for January 23rd at the home of returning members Don & Lisa Perry.

The after-meeting event was to the nearby Lindsay Museum.

BATOC Super Bowl Party!



This coming February 1st will be our annual BATOC Super Bowl party to be held at Marin Rod and Gun Club.

It will be fun for all with all of us rooting for our favorite team.

Big screen TV, fun, food, beer and more!

Tickets are \$15 and this includes a delicious dinner as well as hors d'oeuvres during the first half of the game.

The party starts at 2:30 PM. The Marin

Rod and Gun Club is located at the west end of the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. Call the Gregory's at (415) 479-7320 by January 28th. to reserve your seats. You can pay at the door.

The Packers have more than the

Eagles to battle on Sunday. Green Bay will be fighting history as it looks to become the first No. 4 seed in 13 years to win a divisional playoff game on the road when it travels to Philly. Troy Aikman examines the Eagles-Packers matchup and says the dangerous Packers have their work cut out.

The Packers have won five in a row and are riding high after a huge overtime win against Seattle. The Eagles are coming off a bye and have the advantage of playing at home.

“Anti-freeze doesn't cool your engine as well as water, which is why you don't just pour it straight into the engine.”

TECH TIP—'Got Radiator Fluid?'

To keep running smoothly, your t-bird needs to have its radiator fluid changed from time to time. This is especially true for our little birds which tend to sit for many days without being used. If you let your radiator go neglected, you might end up over-heating your engine, resulting in a shutdown and possible engine damage.

Though water is about as good of an engine coolant as you can find, it has a particular weakness: it can freeze up and it can boil off. To keep the water in your engine from boiling or freezing, you will mix an anti-freeze into the water. Anti-freeze doesn't cool your engine as well as water, which is why you don't just pour it straight into the engine. The mixture of anti-freeze and water is called “coolant”.

Open your radiator fill cap to allow for air to press the coolant from the engine. Finally, place your bucket under radiator drain cock at the bottom passenger side of the radiator and unscrew it. Let the

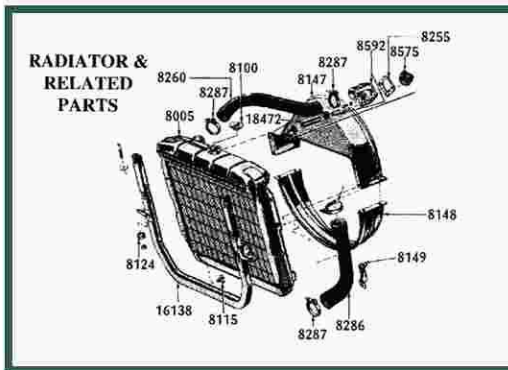
fluid drain out completely. There are also two drain cocks on each side of the engine block however if they haven't been used in awhile they can be frozen solid and break when you try and turn them. Unless you have replacement drain cocks handy (about \$2 to \$4 each from the t-bird store) leave them alone. If you can't

freeze and the water before pouring into the engine, but this might help you to get the ratios correct.

Ideally t-birds use a one-half anti-freeze, one-half water mixture, however if you plan on driving to Tahoe or other colder climate area, you should increase the amount of anti-freeze in your mixture, in order to help prevent freeze-ups. Only in the most extreme of weather, however, should you consider a mixture made up of more than 70% anti-freeze

Replace the fill cap for your radiator and run the engine for a few minutes. Remove the cap to see if any more coolant needs to be added after any air pockets were left in the system from draining

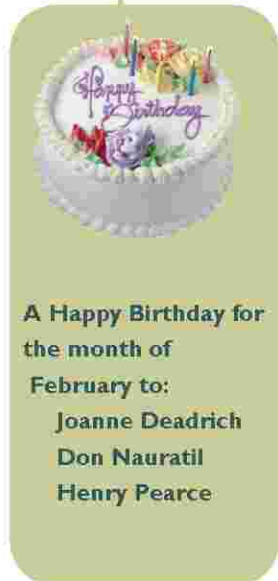
You should probably expect to change your radiator fluid every two years, depending upon how many miles you put on your bird. A coolant recovery system is also a good idea if you don't have one already but this is another tech article!



drain the block, it won't be the end of the world; so, don't stress out too much.

When the old coolant has been drained from your engine, retighten the drain cocks.

It is not actually necessary to mix the anti-



A Happy Birthday for the month of February to:
Joanne Deadrich
Don Nauratil
Henry Pearce

FEBRUARY 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BATOC Super Bowl Party!	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Car-off for reservations for Union Branch</i>	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Union Hotel Club Brunch
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

MARCH 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 St Patricks Parade	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Caldecott Tunnel Event
28	29	30	31			

Schedule of Events

- February 1, 2004— BATOC Super Bowl Party. Marin Rod and Gun Club. Located at the west end of the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. Party starts at 2:30PM.
- February 21, 2004 — BATOC brunch. Union Hotel, Benicia.
- March 17, 2004 — St. Patrick's Day Parade event (non sanctioned)
- March 27,2004—Caldecott Tunnel event. Oakland.
- April 17, 2004 — Quarterly BATOC brunch business meeting.
- April 24, 2004—San Joaquin Delta Tour and Caravan.
- May 28-30, 2004 — Oakdale/ Jamestown Mystery Train Overnighter sponsored by Dave Adams.
- June 19, 2004 — BATOC anniversary party!
- July 24, 2004—Indian Casino Run
- August—Dave Adams TBA
- September 25, 2004—Overnighter to Gualala Hotel



Custom t-birds can look VERY original if you didn't know better.

What Year Bird 'Is' That?

In the past, as an 'aficionado' of true stock t-birds I would always cringe when I would see a customized t-bird that didn't adhere to the strict standards set forth by C.T.C.I. that made the cars as close as possible to the way they came off the assembly line. I was one of "those guys" that would usually start a conversation with something like "did you know that the bolts mounting your radiator are supposed to have external and not internal lock washers?" Or "did you know that your coil resister is supposed to be bright silver not grey?"

But there is a whole other mindset out there that just appreciates the aesthetics of life and that use the little t-birds as a canvas for their creativity. Some of their art is so good and implemented so well that if you didn't know t-birds you would swear that is the way they came off the assembly line! These pictures from various sources depict some of the more common

customizations that have been done. The rear continental kit for 1955's and 1957's were actually available as aftermarket kits that could be pur-



chased from JC Whitney and other catalogs.

Even if you don't like some of these custom jobs, you have to admire their quality!

Dues are Due (really...)

For about three months every year this statement appears in club newsletters everywhere. It is a plea for working capital to pay for the seemingly small but cumulative expenses that any organization incurs on the behalf of its members.

Our club is getting larger and better every month and we are looking forward to a wonderful and fun year for 2004.

Please make your payment now to remain a part of our little t-bird family. You will also have the prestige of being a member of the oldest classic t-bird club there is. (See information on our history website at www.batoc.org).

To make it as easy as possible we are including a membership renewal form and return reply envelope with this

months newsletter.

If you are unsure if you are paid up or not, please call David Olsen at (925) 932-5398 for an update.

If we don't receive your dues soon we will be forced to drop you from our membership roster which we really don't want to do!



Dues go to pay for expenses that benefit all club members!

Blast From the Past!

Here are some pics from the photo archives of Skip Riggs, the founder of the club. These were all from the club's first year in 1958 & 1959. These photos and many more are available for viewing and downloading at www.batoc.org in much larger size and higher resolution.



Jack London tour Jan 1959.



Pebble Beech Parade 1958. The club won 1st place!



BATOC's first ever event which was a Clayton valley rally in Summer 1958.



Share Memories!

The new history section of the www.batoc.com website has the ability for you to upload your favorite photos. Please take a minute and send us some of your past BATOC snapshots. Its FREE!



MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess who this famous T-Birder is? He also used to be a member of BATOC! (Photo was taken around 1963.)

Caldecott Tunnel Event Coming



Top of tunnel passageway usually off limits to the public.

As our upcoming March event, BATOC is going to have a tour of the Caldecott Tunnel. Although at first glance this wouldn't seem to be much of a T-Bird club event, however you would be surprised at how interesting it is and the amount of technology that is involved in maintaining this vital link between San Francisco and the East Bay. Many of us use this tunnel every day not stopping to think of all that goes into maintaining this almost ¾ mile enclosed thoroughfare including lighting, ventilation and overall maintenance. It is quite interesting to see how it is done!

The Caldecott Tunnel has been an important link in the East Bay transportation network since the Kennedy Tunnel opened in 1903. The first and second bores were constructed in 1937. Each of these two bores are 3,619

feet in length and 26.7 feet in width. There are no shoulders and narrow walkways. The third bore was constructed in 1964 and is 3,771 feet in length and

34.5 feet in width with no shoulders and slightly wider walkways.

The Caldecott Tunnel has been improved over time as the Bay Area has grown. A brief history of the tunnel is shown on the Caldecott Tunnel timeline. However, congestion and traffic delays have marked the Caldecott Tunnel since the 1960's due to increasing population and the decentralization of employment centers. Planning of the fourth bore was anticipated and included in the design phase plan of the third bore.

The Department and the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission (MTC) prepared studies investigating ways to improve mobility along the Route 24 Corridor.

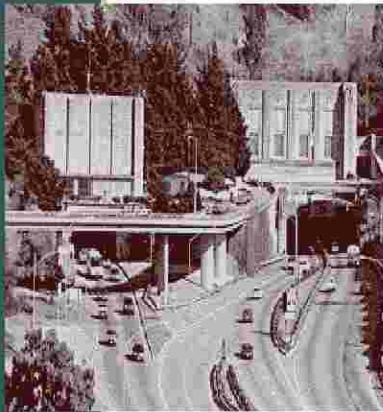
The tour will be about two and a half hours and will take us to the inner workings of the tunnel usually reserved for CalTrans employees only. There will be a moderate amount of walking but not steep climbs. Temperatures can be low so bring a jacket and wear closed toed shoes.

After the tour we will all caravan to brunch in nearby Orinda. The event will on March 29th. Cost and further information will be published in next month's bulletin.



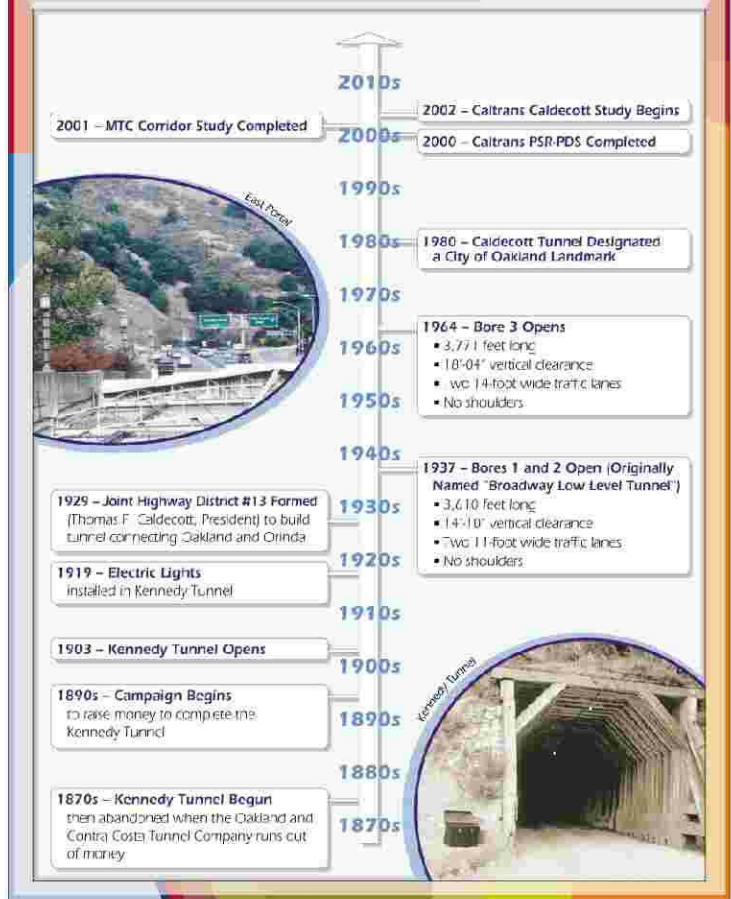
NARROW TUNNEL AUTO ENTRY TO CONTRA COSTA From 1903 to 1937, it was familiar to drivers

The western approach to the Caldecott tunnel



“...at first glance this wouldn't seem to be much of an event ...”

HISTORY OF THE CALDECOTT TUNNEL



February Brunch Event

This coming February 21st. We are all going to the historic Union Hotel in Benicia for a delicious Mediterranean style brunch.

The Union Hotel is nestled on the edge of a calm bay in Benicia. The city of Benicia is home to a bustling marina, antique shops, art studios, restaurants,



historic points of interest and shopping. The comfortable décor of this Benicia Hotel is reminiscent of California's past and is highlighted with touches of European elegance. In the middle of the nineteenth century, this beautiful cream colored hotel welcomed guests from all over the world with warm hospitality. At the time of this writing it is un-

sure whether we will be ordering off the menu or making a predetermined selection so a selection box was placed in the reservation request below.

We will gather at the Starbucks parking lot at 1544 Palos Verdes Mall, Walnut Creek, (border of Pleasant Hill where Pleasant Hill Rd. hits Geary Rd.) at 10:00AM and drive together to the hotel. Brunch is \$20 per person including tax and tip. Please mail your response or call Connie Russell no later than February 12th to let her know you are coming.

'Classic-fied' Ads

1955-1956 Brake Drums — 1 pair. New old stock, factory balanced with hub. Never used, still have original protective coating. \$450 Don Perry (925) 837-4740

1957 (Early) Rear Taillight Bezel—Early bezel has beveled edge used on '57 birds in early production until November 1956. Left side only. Rare. (slightly damaged) \$10. Don Perry (925) 837-4740

1956 (or Bird with Continental Kit) — Chrome wheel cover. No need to special order or wait for it to arrive. \$200 Dave Adams (925) 855-1491.

T-Bird "Rotisserie" to Lend — If you are doing a frame off restoration, don't do it without one of these. Built beyond specifications, this rotisserie gives your car body full support at all body mount points and allows you to roll it around and rotate it to any position for body work, sanding and stripping. Call me if you would like to use it. Dave Adams (925) 855-1491.

**February
2004
Brunch
at the
Union Hotel**



BRUNCH RESERVATION REQUEST

Name(s): _____

Number of Attendees: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I will meet at Starbucks at 10:00AM: Restaurant Only:

I prefer: (enter number) _____ Chicken _____ Beef _____ Fish

Brunch reservations are \$20.00 each. Make checks payable to BATOC and mail to Connie Russell, 3348 Stage Coach Dr., Lafayette 94549 or call Connie at (925) 944-0691 and reserve your space. Please try and meet us at Starbucks where we can then caravan to the Hotel. Please BYB (Bring Your Birds) !!

President's Message Continued...

continued from page 1

in it, because like this club and our new newsletter, our web site is now, in our opinion, the Grand-Daddy of all club sites and still growing. Get there and check it out. www.batoc.org and click on the HISTORY tab.

And I'm still going ... with two upcoming events. First, is our yearly Director's Meeting on the 24th of this month. While this is officially a BOARD meeting, where long range business items and plans are discussed, all club members are welcome to attend and participate. It will be at Don & Lisa Perry's house and is a pot luck. Look inside for more info. Secondly, is our annual Super Bowl bash on February 1 at the Marin Rod & Gun Club. Again, look inside for the details, but do plan on attending and having a wonderful afternoon of friends, food and frolic.

I have a couple dozen other things to discuss, but you've got sooo much to read here that I don't want to bore you with

my preaching. But suffice it to say that BATOC is on a roll having just finished our single biggest year of membership

BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB OFFICERS for 2004

President*	Dave Adams	(925) 855-1491
V.P./ Membership*	Don Gregory	(415) 479-7320
Secretary*	Carol Glander	(415) 924-3732
Treasurer*	David Olson	(925) 932-5398
Activities Chairperson	Connie Russell	(925) 944-0691
C.T.C.I. Representative	Don Gregory	(415) 479-7320
Technical Chairperson	Pete Lefevre	(925) 846-6799
Newsletter Editor	Don Perry	(925) 837-4740
Historian	Marilyn Nelson	(707) 425-0120
Web Master	Dave Adams	(925) 855-1491
*Directors		

growth and a year that has seen the return of amazing enthusiasm, ideas, activities and members. This is YOUR club and BATOC is very alive. Be proud and active. It just keeps getting better.

As Always: Happy T-Birding and call me anytime.

Dave

Thunderbird Headquarters
Complete Parts Department
For 1955-1966 Thunderbirds

FREE Catalogs



FEBRUARY'S
FEATURED
ITEMS

CALL OR GO YOURS
ON THE WEB TODAY!

14529A



14529B



14A701



14529A	Switch, window regulator with female terminals.....	\$45.00
14529B	Switch, window regulator with male terminals.....	\$40.75
14A701	Power seat switch.....	\$45.00

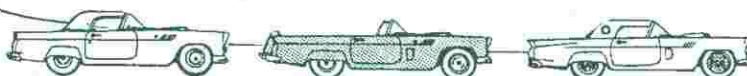
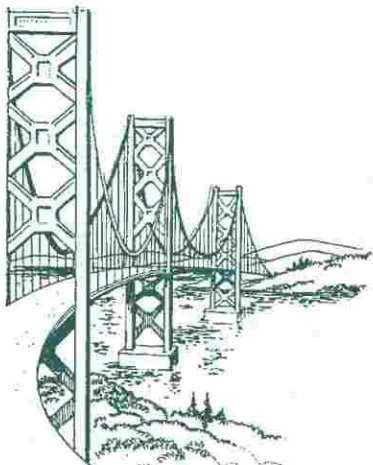
1080 Detroit Avenue Concord CA, 94518
(925)825-9550

*What's New in Bird-Hand? is published monthly by the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club or BATOC. Articles, flyers or advertising should be sent to the Editor, Ann Gregory, 362 Patricia Way, San Rafael, CA, 94903-2326. Please send camera-ready copy by 20th of month; late material will be in next issue. Non business-related classified ads are FREE to all BATOC members. Non-members ad fee: .05 per word per issue with \$2.50 minimum. Business card ads are \$30 per year. The cost for ads containing graphics or complex media is negotiable. Contact Editor for details: (415) 479-7320.
BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB is a non-profit organization and is part of CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL, specifically, Chapter No. 4. We welcome all persons interested in the 1955, 56 and 57 Ford Thunderbird cars. Our membership dues and initiation fees are extremely reasonable. We encourage you to attend one of our activities or meetings. Please contact any of our officers listed herein for more information. Join us!



Bay Area Thunderbird Owner's Club

Don Perry, Editor
49 Flora Vista Place
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FIRST CLASS MAIL