



# WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2018

## Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club (BATOC)

### Upcoming Events

Event	Date
March Meeting & Bowlathon	Sat. Mar 10
April Meeting	Sat. Apr 14
Princess Cruise California Coast	Sun. Apr 29

Laughter is the Best  
Medicine



Don't forget to pay  
your dues!

**BATOC Club Monthly meeting is on  
the second Sat of each month at:**

**The Buttercup Grill & Bar  
660 Ygnacio Valley Road  
Walnut Creek CA  
10am - noon \$20 for breakfast  
Next meeting: Feb 10, 2018**

**Spare Change for Charity**

**Don't forget to bring your spare change  
to all meetings and outings.**

**Facebook Group Page: Bay Area  
Thunderbird Owners Club**

**Website: [batoc.org](http://batoc.org)**



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## SUPER BOWL RIVALRIES – NONE AT OUR PARTY!

Yes, Tom Brady is a Bay Area native. So you would think that the Bay Area Club would be pulling for him. Not so. We are just a little tired of him winning too much – yes he is good! But, it was time for another team to have a chance. Philadelphia managed to play a

flawless game and beat the former champs, securing their first ever win in a Super Bowl. What an exciting game. The Guthrie's put out a great spread, as usual. We also celebrated Tony Lloyd's birthday. So, it was a fun day all around.



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## PRES SAYS



### MARCH MADNESS...(OR I THOUGHT LIFE WAS SUPPOSED TO SLOW DOWN)

Sometimes I feel like Brad Pitt in Benjamin Buttons. You're supposed to be able to slow down as you get older and relax a little, but my life just seems to get busier and busier and more and more crazy. It's all backwards. What the hell happened?

To that end, I owe our amazing V.P., Guy Cummins, for covering my back side at our February meeting while Susan and I spent the weekend in Grass Valley with friends. The judges score cards came back with a solid "9.5" – only losing points for one silly joke...just kidding. Thank You, Guy for having my back. Great job.

Following the February meeting, our Route 66 committee held their monthly meeting and I understand that it was very productive, and everything is coming together nicely. Many hotel reservations have been secured and details will follow. I've said it a thousand times, but this will be a great trip that you don't want to miss. Come along for the trip of the year.

About the time you are reading this, we will be holding our annual BATOC Board meeting to discuss the club's long-range plans. This, of course, includes things like Route 66 and our general plans, and this year will include a discussion of Birds on the Wharf. We have been approached by the Monterey Club to take the lead of the annual Birds on the Wharf event and to help ensure the continuation of this fabulous event. This, of course, would be a major undertaking for us and would require some significant effort on BATOC's part, but I am quite certain that none of us want to see this great event fade into the sunset. This is not a decision to be made lightly and we will be looking for everyone's input at the next few meetings. If you have any thoughts on the subject, PLEASE, give me a call and give me a piece of your mind.

On a lighter note, don't forget our "This-Will-Be-Fun-To-Watch" Bowling event following this month's meeting on March 10. Everyone is welcome to participate in the fun – or at least WATCH the spectacle. At our last bowling event there were as many people sliding down the alley as there were balls and pins. Humiliation was the word of the day with scores in the low 30's...not 300 – but 30. How can you miss this kind of fun? If you'd like to come for a good laugh, let Maria know right away.

And finally, I want to hugely thank Jim and Maria who have generously offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> space in their garage so that my car can keep their car company for the next few months. Moving out of and renting my house of 25 years has required a great deal of shuffling and reorganization and Jim and Maria's help is soooooooo appreciated. Thank You, Guys.

I'll see you all at this month's meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and thank you all for being a part of my life. I love you all.

Happy T-Birding and Happy Spring

Dave



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## BATOC Meeting Minutes Feb. 10, 2018

In attendance: 35 members

Dave's up in Grass Valley for his anniversary, so Guy led today's meeting in Dave's absence. Thanks to Maria and Jim for hosting last weekends Super Bowl Party. It was a very nice time. There was an update on the Route 66 Outing. We are thinking of contacting other clubs to see if we can caravan. Our reservations for the trip are pretty locked up, and set. There will be a meeting after today's club meeting. We are looking for a source for ordering more name badges. The inventory we had is missing. Nick Verhoek mentioned that he'll check into some companies to see if we can get some made. There will be a board meeting coming up on Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Apparel: Lisa is trying to get the inventory down, so we can order everything online. She has plenty of polo's and T-shirts. And a few other things. Get a hold of her if you'd like anything. She will still be ordering jackets if you need one of those. On the Tech report: Pete had a thought of adding a tech adviser to our board for new birds, to be an expert on codes and checking out our cars. We used to have a Tech chairman who would inspect our cars before we joined the club, and that was disbanded as we didn't want to take on that layer of responsibility. But having two tech advisors might be a good idea. Treasurer report: \$8710.36 If you haven't paid your dues, send a check to Maria. Mary spoke of the Bowling event, which is the next outing March 10, after the meeting. Hosted by Maria Guthrie. 1:30-3:00 bowling, then Castle Rock for dinner, then Guthrie's for dessert. Let Maria know if your interested in joining in. April: is the cruise: Ed Benson is hosting. May 26: Memorial Day Mystery Dinner at the Cummins' house at 1:00. Then wine taste, then come back to their house and .BBQ with the basics, we'll have mystery dinner with actors dressed up. June : Anniversary party: we checked into the Chardonnay was high at 1200 per hour. Were checking into the SF Bay Hornblower. The group rate is \$100 per person. If we want to do that we have to sign contracts and pay up-front at least half. It will have to be discussed as to if the club will kick-in a portion. There was discussion about checking into Commodore cruises to see what they will quote. Oct: Route 66 there will a short meeting after the regular meeting. Dec: Phil Jenkins is working on securing a location for the Christmas Party. Kathy Ramos gave out thank you gifts to the Guthrie's for hosting the super bowl party.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Dixon Secretary

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## BATOC Classifieds

Item	Seller	Price
Vintage Suitcases Samsonite	Nick Verhoek 510-352-9910	\$20 each
Striped Suitcase	Nick Verhoek 510-352-9910	\$10
1956,57 Tbird Rear Springs New	Bud Riley 925-373-0403	\$75
2 14" Ford Rims (Not T-Bird, but close)	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	Free
Chrome tire ring '56 T-Bird Continental Kit	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	\$150
Custom Built Body Rotisserie from Casco plans	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	\$500 (cost \$1200 to build)
Cherry picker	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	\$100
Engine Stand	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	\$100
New Headliner kit	Dave Adams 415-269-0055	\$50



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## In the Rear View Mirror by Skip Riggs

In closing the previous installment, I mentioned the strife that beset our Thunderbird Club over the inclusion of the four seat Thunderbird automobile. If I had been a little wiser, it might never have happened, as I should have realized that any automobile manufacturer that has success with a model name is going to hang onto that name as long as it brings in sales. Ford of course was having great success with the name "Thunderbird" and as we all know, continued using it for many years after the first model production.

As I stated earlier, the club meetings became quite stressful as many of us wanted only the two seat original Thunderbird incorporated into the club and there were a few that wanted to allow the four seat model due to the friendships that had developed during our first few months. This argument dragged on for several months until cooler heads saw what was happening to our club and decided to withdraw their membership. The rift had caused some hurt feelings as you can well imagine and it took many months to assuage some of the injured feelings but we did manage to move on due mostly to the love of the small car by a dedicated club membership.

As most of you can imagine, when the club was new most of the members were driving new or almost new Thunderbirds. We had a few used 55's that had been purchased by members as used cars, but most of the 56's and 57's were being driven by their original owners. Most of the members were young folks in their 20's and early 30's with just a few older folks who felt young at heart driving a Thunderbird. As I mentioned earlier, this group seemed to gravitate toward sports car activities with the car. We were still doing Rally's, Gymkhana's, Concorso's and Elegance shows and other sports car type activities but also we were doing various events to promote the club to the general public. Over the years though, this type of activity has been left behind in favor of more social type activities such as the club enjoys today such as overnight trips, trips to visit various attractions around the state, special dinners and events of that type.

One of the best attended events we used to stage was an overnighter to the snow country in the Sierra's. This event was a mainstay of the club and was staged for several years.

The club has always had a "spark plug" type member such as our present Dave Adams. Some of the ones I best remember are: Mel Melendres who was President for several years and a great asset to the club. Bill and Mara Lee Houston were hard workers who could always be counted on to step up when needed. Roger Neiss, our editor was a dedicated member as was his wife Edna. Roger went on to edit the "Early Bird" newsletter and in later years was the editor of the V-8 Times for the Early Ford Club of America.

Another interesting point to me at least is the development of a cottage industry around these little cars. Larry Evenson, an early member who worked as a Ford parts man, started his business from home buying and selling parts for the early Thunderbird and went on to form "Larry's Thunderbird Parts" which became a very successful business. Another early member who did a similar operation was Don Johnson who owns "Thunderbird Headquarters" in Concord. These are only two of a host of businesses dedicated primarily to the sale of Thunderbird parts. There are others of course, but my point is that here is a little car that had maintained its popularity of over 70 years with very little letup. Some of these cars are on their 5th or even 10th owner and still popular. I recently checked Ebay for Thunderbird listings and on the day I checked, there were 96 original 55, 56 and 57 model Thunderbirds for sale in various stages of restoration or needing restoration with prices from \$10,000 up through \$75,000. Pretty amazing for a car that was produced for only three years and is over 60 years old and still admired by a lot of people. I am sure that, like me, each time you take your Thunderbird out on the road someone is sure to make an admiring comment about your little "Bird". The love affair goes on! See you down the road!



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## BATOC Bowling Bash



### JOIN US!!

For a fun-filled day planned by Maria and Jim!

**Saturday, March 10th**

Following the BATOC Monthly Meeting, we will meet at Granada Bowl in Livermore (1620 Railroad Ave). Lanes are reserved from 1:30 – 3pm and the cost is \$13 per person.

From the bowling alley we will caravan to Castle Rock Restaurant (1848 Portola Ave) for an early dinner and end the day with dessert at the Guthrie's house.

**RSVP by March 3rd to Maria and Jim Guthrie  
(925) 292-7643**

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## BATOC Princess Cruise



Princess California  
Coast Cruise

April 29- May 6



Call Ed Benson for Details  
([ebensonbwa@aol.com](mailto:ebensonbwa@aol.com) 925-943-7011)



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**The Cummins' Present a *murderously* delicious event**



## Saturday May 26th

Inviting all Gangsters, Four-Flushers, Eggs and Bearcats, doll up and dud up. Jump into your Hotsy-Totsy Jalopies to get on a toot at the finest Livermore Wine emporiums. Then, Let's Blouse and head to the Cummins for some giggle water and a BBQ to die for.

You'll need to know your onions to figure whodun'it. Don't bet all your Mazuma the choice bit of calico was the culprit. Rumor has it the bluenose had a gripe.



not much jack  
for a full day  
of fun

**\$45**

Wine tasting  
BBQ ribs/chicken  
dinner  
Murder mytery  
theater

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## **Schedule**

- ♦ **1PM—Meet at The Cummins house. Snacks and beverages**
- ♦ **2PM -Leave for first Winery, drive through downtown. Honk horns. Wave.**
- ♦ **3pm -Leave first winery for second winery at**
- ♦ **4PM - Leave Winery 2 for the Cummins**
- ♦ **4:30 - Arrive for hors d'oeuvre and drinks**
- ♦ **5:30 - Seat for Dinner – actors arrive - serve salad**
- ♦ **6:15 main course**
- ♦ **7:00 desert / awards**

## **Murder Mystery**

- ♦ 2 professional trained actors dressed in costume.
- ♦ Exciting themed show.
- ♦ The opportunity for some of you to actually play suspects in the Murder Mystery.
- ♦ Light Costuming provided for those playing suspects.
- ♦ All the pens, papers, suspect binders, investigation sheets, props, and anything else needed to solve the crime.
- ♦ Your own personal Crime Scene Consultant to work with you on gathering details for your event.
- ♦ Awards will be handed out to the survivors at the end of the night.



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## Route 66 Trip in October



### Tentative Schedule

Oct 5,6 Amarillo  
Oct 7,8 Santa Fe  
Oct 9 Albuquerque  
Oct 10 Gallup  
Oct 11 Winslow

Oct 12 G Canyon/Williams  
Oct 13 Kingman  
Oct 14 San Bernardino  
Oct 15 Santa Monica  
Oct 16 San Luis Obispo



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## Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club 2018 Calendar of Events

### **Winter – Meetings Jan 13 / Feb 10**

- January 14 – President's Mystery Tour (Adams)
- February 4 – Super Bowl Party, Livermore (Guthrie)

### **Spring – Meetings Mar 10 / Apr 14 / May 12**

- March 10 - Group Outing: Bowling (Guthrie)
- April 29 - Cruise (Benson)
- May 26 – BBQ (Cummins)

### **Summer – Meetings Jun 9 / Jul 14 / Aug 11**

- June 24 – Anniversary Party (TBA)
- July 22 – Hot Danville Sundays Car Show #1 (TBA)
- July 21 – Coppola Winery (Verhoek)
- Aug 19 – Hot Danville Sundays Car Show #2 (TBA)
- August 15 – CTCI International Conference, Knoxville, TN

### **Autumn – Meetings Sept 8 / Oct 13 / Nov 10**

- Sept XX - XX – Run to the Redwoods (Dixon)
- Sept XX – Ironstone, Murphys, CA (Canfield)
- Sept XX - Birds on the Wharf, Santa Cruz (TBD)
- Oct 5 – 17 – Route 66 Trip
- Nov XX – Veterans Parade (Baumgarter)

### **Winter – Meeting Dec 8**

- Dec XX – BATOC Holiday Party (Jenkins and Lloyd)

### **Events in Planning**

### **Proposed Ideas / Hosts Needed**

- August Car Show - Niles
- Delta Cruise (Haffner)
- Travis Airforce Base – (Baumgarter)



**Ready to plan an event?**

Let us know! [marymac1234@gmail.com](mailto:marymac1234@gmail.com)

Updated 2/27/18