



WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club (BATOC)

Upcoming Events

Event	Date
April Meeting	Sat. Apr 14
Princess Cruise California Coast	Sun. Apr 29
Barbecue/Wine Tasting/Mystery Theater	Sat. May 26

Laughter is the Best
Medicine

You're suffering from Thuderitis



**Drive your Thunderbird once a day
and you will feel fine**



**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

WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

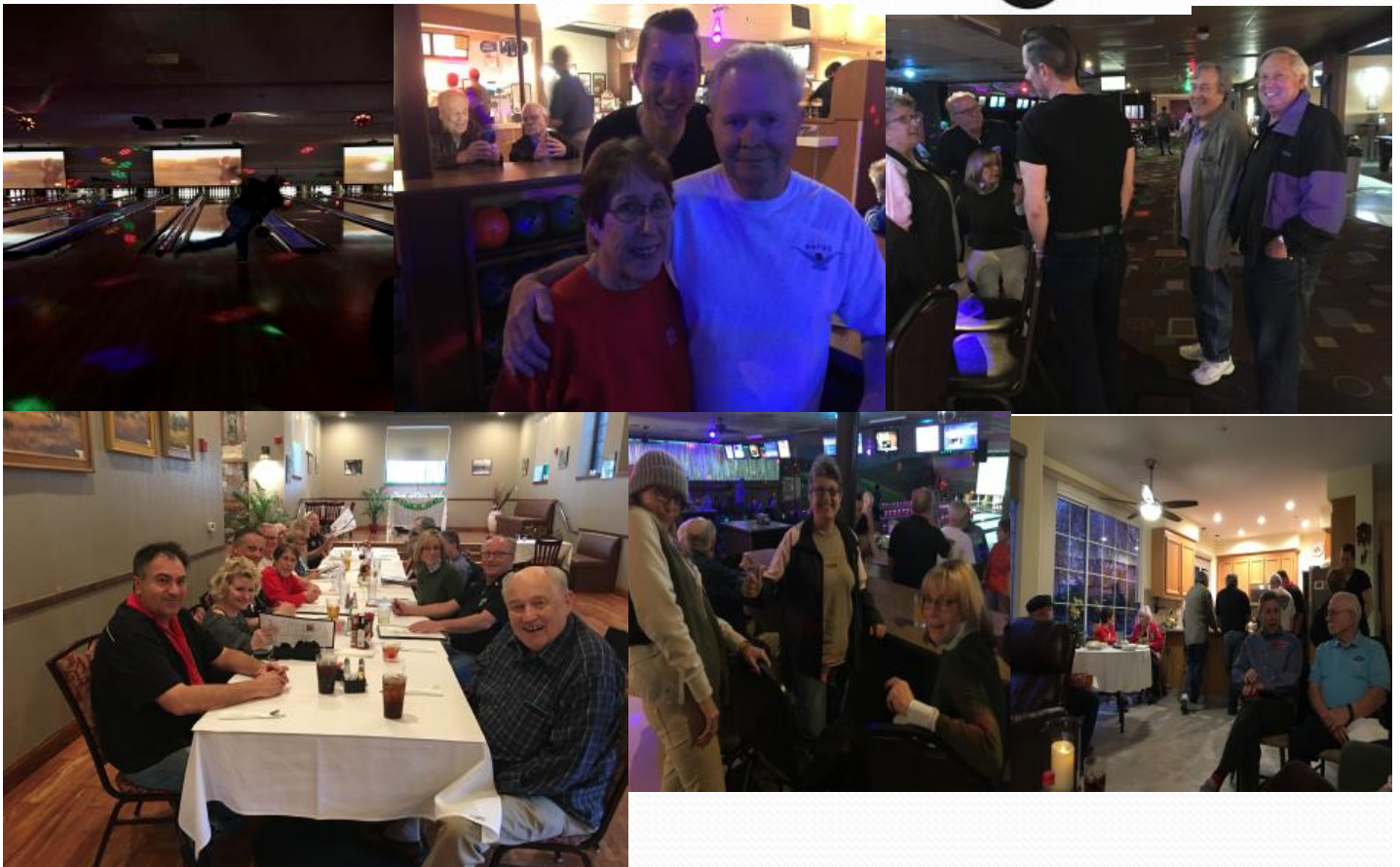
VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

BOWLING, CASTLE ROCK AND YUMMY DESSERTS

The day began with our monthly breakfast meeting at the Buttercup Grille. After the meeting, many of us caravanned to the Granada Bowl in Livermore. Amid the disco lights, mirror balls, and music, our BATOC bowlers gave it a valiant effort. People were really improving as the bowling progressed, and the fun ended all too soon. Then we

headed over to the Castle Rock Restaurant, a fixture in Livermore. After dinner we were invited to the Guthrie's for some scrumptious desserts. It was a wonderful day for everyone. Many thanks to the Guthrie's for organizing such a fun event.



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VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

PRES SAYS



OH, WHAT TO SAY...WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY

So, as most of you know, I have been very involved in moving, repairing and renting out my house after 25 years and 25 years of collected “junk”. OMG. You have no idea how much junk you collect over the years...and I’m not a “hoarder”. Then there are all the repairs to a house that you thought was in pretty good shape. Again, OMG. 6 weeks of non-stop 14 hour days and hard physical labor. The good news? My house is rented and I’ve lost 15 pounds. The bad news? Not much club work or activity...Sorry.

On the club front, we are still discussing the Birds on the Wharf situation with the other area clubs and determining the viability of continuing this iconic event. I’ll have more to report at this month’s meeting.

Of course, we have Route 66 in October that we have worked so hard on. Lots of fun and lots of memories to be made and had. If you are going, it is imperative that you make your room reservations right away...particularly in Amarillo and Santa Fe. If you have questions call Jean, Maria or Mary. And while you are at it, check this month’s activity calendar and get your name on the list for ALL of the upcoming events. Again, lots of fun and memories to be had.

On a somber note, we lost a treasured – albeit unofficial – member of our club this month with the loss of Larry Booth following a stroke. Larry and Janet joined us on many outings over the years – mostly in their beautiful 1956 Continental and while they were not official members of the club, their energy and fun will be greatly missed.

It goes without saying, please join us this month for our regular meeting on the 14th and let your thoughts be known. The more input, the more fun and the more variety.

On that note, have a great weekend and a great week. AND, get that car out and enjoy the Spring weather.

Happy T-Birding

Dave

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VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

Meeting Minutes March 10, 2018

30 Attendees

President Dave Adams called the meeting to order. Dave is in transition to a new home with Susan, so it has been a monumental task moving, after 25 years in one place. Longtime members Don and Ann Gregory were in attendance. The Dixon women were absent, trying out for The Family Feud Show. Hope they get chosen.

The first topic was name badges. Since we have lost our printer, we are having trouble duplicating our old badge. Three possibilities were discussed: 1) a Red badge plate with white letters - no other color, 2) a badge just like what we have now, and 3) a new badge on gold with black lettering. The first badge cost \$18 a piece, the second we would have to order and pay upfront for 100 badges of each year car, and the gold badge cost \$5 each with minimal setup fees. We put it to a vote, and the club selected the gold badge moving forward. Guy will proceed with this selection. The theme for our annual calendar this year will be Route 66. All photos will be taken on the trip in October. It should be an outstanding edition.

Pete had suggested a second tech advisor for the New Birds. We are looking for a volunteer who would like to keep up on New Bird problems and resolutions. Please call Dave if you are interested.

We are trying to clear out our inventory of BATOC clothing and accessories, before we go totally to online orders. The current inventory will be reduced in price by 25% (except jackets). Please check the list in the newsletter and on the web, and contact Lisa if you are interested in buying something. There was some discussion of getting a few samples of the online items, for sizing purposes. Lisa is looking into this.

We discussed the 60th Anniversary Event. It could be a restaurant event or a picnic. The club will subsidize \$25 per person of the cost.

John Haffner, Nick Verhoek and Lisa Brill-Nadler will put some ideas together and plan it out.

There is not a lot of time before we will want to do this. Watch for more information soon.

Anyone who brings a new member to the club will receive 100 BATOC bucks. This should be great incentive for finding new members.

We are interested in adding some information to the roster such as profession, birthday and anniversary. Guy will send out a form to collect this data before we publish a hardcopy roster. We will be having a roster printed sometime this year.

We have been asked by the Monterey Club to be a major player in Birds on the Wharf. Dave will call some of the other local clubs and see how this might be achieved. It will be hard for us to do it, being so far from the site of the event. But, we are willing to assist in some way.

The Christmas Party will be at Zio Fredo's Restaurant on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 6PM. This is a Friday evening. The Jenkins and the Lloyds are organizing this event. Cost will be \$50 per person. More details to follow.

We are going to raise the cost of the club membership fee to \$40.

Route 66 planning is firming up at the various hotels. Information lists will be going out to the participants so reservations can be made in advance.

Upcoming events include the California Coast Princess Cruise in late April, the May barbecue/wine Tasting/mystery Theater with the Cummins, the Coppola Winery tour with the Verhoek's in July, for the next few months. There is a new Mel's Diner that opened in Livermore, which could be the site for a fun dinner gathering in April.

The meeting was adjourned so we could go to our Bowling Bash Event.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Riley

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VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

New Bird Advice from Bud Riley

Cost Comparison for Installing New Spark Plugs and Coils

Having just acquired a 2004 Thunderbird, it was running a little rough, so I wanted to get it fixed. I got it diagnosed to needing new spark plugs and coils. My first thought was to call a Ford dealer. Their price was as follows:

Dealer	
Labor	\$579
Spark Plugs	\$83.16
Coils	\$916.61
Total	\$1596.77

That sounded high, so I called a local Auto Shop, and they did the job for the following:

Advance Auto Shop (Tim)
3253 Fourth ST
Livermore CA 925-455-9338

Labor	\$248
Spark Plugs	\$54.14 (purchase through Amazon)
Coils	\$40.15 (purchase through Amazon)
Total	\$344.79

Just goes to show you, you had better shop around. The car is running smooth now. If you have any questions, give me a call. 925-373-0403

BATOC Wear Sale Lisa Brill-Nadler

In an effort to sell our current apparel inventory as we move to selling BATOC apparel on-line, we are holding a sale.

From now until the June meeting, all apparel will be 10 % (maybe more) off the prices listed below.

Here is a list of our remaining stock, if you'd like me to set aside an item for you and bring it to the next meeting, call me.

Lisa Brill-Nadler
925-945-7009

Duffel Bag - \$35 – 1 left

Polo Shirts - \$35

Red: 2S, 2M, 1L, 2 XXL

Black: 1S, 2M 1XL, 2XXL

White: 2S, 2M, 7XL

Zippered Hoodie - \$45

Blue: 1L

Long Sleeve T-Shirts - \$20

Gray: 2XL

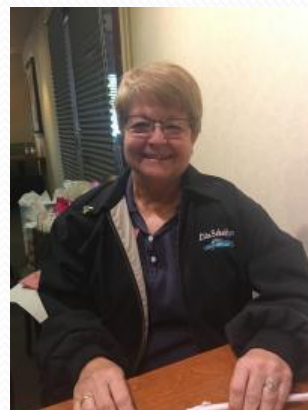
Short Sleeve T-Shirts - \$18

Gray: 1S, 4M, 3XL

White: 2S, 3M, 1L, 7XL

Meet Ms. Sunshine, Lita Schaffer

For those of you who didn't know, Lita Schaffer is our Ms. Sunshine. Ms. Sunshine is there to cheer us up when times are bad, we are ill, or there is a loss. If you are aware of one of our BATOC members going through some tough times and needing a little cheering, please let Lita know, and she will spread the warmth to that individual or family. You can contact Lita at tomandlita@comcast.net or 925-595-5468. Let's keep the sunshine going! Thanks, Lita.



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APRIL 2018

BATOC Classifieds

Item	Seller	Price
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

I have a 1961 Ford T-Bird that I need to sell (no room at my house). All major work has been done, complete rebuilt engine, new tires and brakes and more. Price \$5,500. If you know of anyone that might want this T-Bird please give them my cell # 831-588-4672
Thanks James Eberhardt



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The Trip of a Lifetime – Route 66

For those of you who haven't heard the details yet, here are some of the plans for our epic road trip, Route 66. We will be starting the trip in Amarillo, Texas. Since driving to Amarillo and back would take over 2 weeks, most of us will be transporting our cars in a covered truck back to Amarillo. We will then fly to Amarillo and begin our journey from there. This is the itinerary:

- Oct. 5,6 Amarillo Texas
- Oct. 7,8 Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Oct. 9 Albuquerque, New Mexico (during balloon festival!)
- Oct. 10 Gallup, Arizona
- Oct. 11 Winslow, Arizona
- Oct. 12 Williams, Arizona (some will drive to the Grand Canyon)
- Oct. 13 Kingman, Arizona
- Oct. 14 Barstow, California
- Oct. 15 Santa Monica, California
- Oct. 16 San Luis Obispo, California
- Oct. 17 Home

We are going to hit the historic sites along the way and we are hoping to connect with some of the local CTCI clubs also. We can arrange to meet somewhere for touring or socializing or both.

The cost per couple will run around \$5000. We will also be taking some spectacular photos along the way for our calendar. Right now, we have 10 couples going, but we can take a few more. If you are at all interested, please contact Mary Cummins, marymac1234@gmail.com. We are booking our rooms in the coming weeks, because there are limited numbers in some of the places. Hope you can join us?



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APRIL 2018

T'Bird Pioneer says Fame's Unimportant Most of Career Spent on Classic Cars

By Steve Kellman Taken from Early Bird March-April 1998



Bill Boyer calls himself the “head birdbrain”. Not a very respectful title for a man revered by car collectors, but Boyer is modest about his place in automotive history. He shouldn’t be. The longtime Michigan resident drew the first sketches of the 1955 Ford Thunderbird and spent the next 30 years designing cars and trucks for Ford Motor Co, returning to the T’Bird throughout his career.

Boyer was working for General Motors in 1953 when he got a call from Franklin Hershey, a longtime friend and Ford’s head designer. Ford officials had gotten wind that GM designers were working on a new sports car called the Corvette, and they wanted to have their own sports car in Ford showrooms to compete.

Boyer remembers standing in a design room next to a GM vice-president in 1952 when he took the call. He told Hershey that he would call back and dashed across the street to a pay phone, where Hershey offered him a job designing the unnamed sports car for Ford. Boyer accepted. “He put me in a body development studio all by myself, with a layout man and five clay modelers and said, “Get something started.” Boyer recalled.

Boyer drew on his experience as a naval pilot during World War II to design the car, with the dashboard echoing the control panels of naval planes. He tried to make the car look aerodynamic in the days before wind tunnel testing and computerized models.

Boyer and his crew soon had sketches and clay mockups prepared, but the unauthorized project was shelved for several weeks until a Ford executive saw the Corvette’s unveiling at a Parts car show in 1953. Boyer was ordered back to work on the car, and the first two-seater Thunderbird rolled off a Detroit assembly line in 10 October 1954.

The company had more than 4,000 orders waiting on the first day of production, and Ford went on to sell more than 16,000 of the cars that first model year, at a basic price of \$2695. More luxuriously equipped than the Corvette, and with a V-8 engine rather than the Corvette’s V-6, the T’Bird out sold the “vette by a 5-to-1 margin.

Boyer spent most of the next 30 years working on the Thunderbird in one capacity or another except for a three year stint as Ford’s chief designer in Australia.

The first cars were designed in a small studio near the train tracks in Dearborn, where passengers or passing trains would stare at the clay mockups sitting in the parking lots.

“We didn’t have much in the way of security.” Boyer said.

Under the leadership of then Vice-President Lee Iacocca, the importance of design grew in prominence and the company’s design center soon moved out from engineering department into larger, cushier quarters across from Greenfield Village.

“Iacocca had a wonderful sense of the market.” Boyer said. “He realized that first of all people had to be attracted to the car, aesthetically.”

Boyer’s favorite T’Birds are the 1957 model and the convertible models in the early 1960’s with solid covers that turned them into two-seaters. He admits being disappointed with later body designs based on the Lincoln Mark IV in 1972 rather than designed from the ground up.

“I never thought that they were really a Thunderbird.” Boyer said. “I always thought that it lost its heritage to some degree.

Ford finally dropped the Thunderbird completely this year. “A shortage of manufacturing facilities meant Ford had to choose between cars like the Thunderbird and Cougar, which were declining in popularity, or the increasingly popular sport utility vehicles like the Explorer.” Boyer said.

He doubts that the line is gone for good, noting that Ford has increased the production facilities and is already planning to reintroduce the Cougar name on a Mercury show car.

“I don’t imagine it’ll be very long before the Thunderbird name is resurrected.” Boyer said “The car’s got too good a history to let it lie dormant.”

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BATOC Princess Cruise



Princess California
Coast Cruise

April 29- May 6



Call Ed Benson for Details
(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 glegle water and a BBQ to die for.

You'll need to know your onlons to fleure whodun't. 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

WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

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 Barstow
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 (Baumgartner)

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 – (Baumgartner)



Ready to plan an event?
Let us know! marymac1234@gmail.com

Updated 3/20/18