

WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019



BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB (BATOC) CTCI Chapter 4

Upcoming Events

Event	Date
Monthly Meeting March	Sat. March 9, 2019
BATOC Bowling in Livermore	Sat. March 9, 2019
Pay BATOC 2019 Dues	March 30, 2019
Monthly Meeting April	April 13, 2019
BATOC Whale Watching Trip	April 14, 2019

SPARE CHANGE FOR CHARITY

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



Thankfully, Spring is just around the corner!

BATOC CLUB MONTHLY MEETING IS ON THE SECOND SAT OF EACH MONTH AT:

Buttercup Grill & Bar
660 Ygnacio Valley Rd
Walnut Creek CA
10am - 12pm \$20 for breakfast

FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE: BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB

WEBSITE: BATOC.ORG

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Meeting Minutes February 9, 2019

President Dave Adams called the meeting to order at 10:08AM. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine Day, and thanked Jim and Maria for a great Super Bowl party. A big round of applause was given to the hosting couple.

Next, he introduced us to our new member, Marty Lewis, who lives in Orinda. Marty purchased a 1956 Thunderbird, Fiesta Red, from a friend of his. He did a frame off restoration, but he is still looking for a number of parts for it.

Update on our BATOC calendars. Being that we had technical problems with the pictures, Don, is redoing 50 new calendars. They will be mailed out to the 32 people who ordered on line. Those that did not purchase calendars on line can pick up your replacement calendar at our next meeting.

Dave talked about our Mystery Tour that he headed last month to the California Agricultural Museum in Woodland. "We saw more tractors and harvesters than you can imagine, some more than three blocks long." We went to a restaurant in Dixon for lunch, and they did a fabulous job for us.

Dave gave us a couple of little points of interest. The Sequoia Thunderbird Club has disbanded. Sadly, Richard Porter, a former BATOC member who had a 1957 black Thunderbird, died a few months back, in a house fire. He lived in San Jose. Dave said two of his cars, which did not burn in the fire are missing, and Dave is trying to help the family find the cars. Missing is his 1957 Thunderbird and his 2002 Thunderbird, both of which will be put up for sale. As mentioned last month, former BATOC member, Jim Hickey, got burned from boiling rust remover on his stove, in Medford, Oregon. They had moved him to a burn center, but unfortunately, he did not survive. We are all so sorry for these two tragic losses.

In memorium



Richard Porter



James Hickey

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Meeting Minutes con't January 12, 2019

Continuing with what was discussed at our board meeting, Dave went on to say that we are going to forge new relationships with various part suppliers, develop deeper relationships, so they will promote our club, our calendars, etc., but at the same time do some reciprocal things like run their ads in the newsletter.

We made an official decision on our BATOC calendars this year to solicit pictures of cars from all the other Thunderbird clubs. It will make a huge new market for selling the calendars. It will get the other clubs involved, and it will become a huge fundraiser for us. We are writing an article on this request in the CTCI Earlybird.

Another committee was formed at the board meeting, a historical committee. This club has a huge amount of history that no one ever sees. It is stored at Jean and Bud's house. At this year's anniversary party there may be a huge historical display. Also, we can use it at our membership drives at the car shows in our tent.

We are putting together another roster this year, and what we want to add to it this year is occupation. Make sure your information is up to date. Mail inputs to Guy Cummins at guy@guycummins.com

Also decided at the Board Meeting was to increase the rewards for BATOC bucks.

200 BATOC bucks for putting on an outing.

2 BATOC bucks for wearing your badge

10 BATOC bucks for bringing your car to the monthly meeting

50 BATOC bucks for bringing a gift for the raffle

May 15th through the 19th of May is our Regional Convention in Flagstaff. We can plan on driving to the convention as a group. Make your hotel reservations now. All hotels are getting booked, you can always cancel. There is special parking for your classic car. Ten cars were interested in going so far. We want to encourage our club members to buy their \$100 CB radios. It makes our events more fun and inclusive.

Bill Browning mentioned the Fabulous Fords Event on Sunday, April 14 in Anaheim. It is a one-day event with about 5000 cars attending. Dave said that we will put that event on the radar screen and see how many are interested in attending.

Dave announced that we managed to weasel our way into the Tesla factory. Tony Lloyd managed to get us in. He said they are very exclusive who they let in, and that we have to go with somebody who owns a Tesla. The event will be in the spring or early summer. There will be more on this at a later date.

We had a board meeting at Jim and Maria's house and decided we wanted to go after membership more aggressively. We formed a committee comprised of Guy, Don Perry, and the Greches. We will pass out promotional pieces and put together a tent at various car shows. We plan to talk to Thunderbird owners and passing out information about our club. We will buy a club canopy and bring it to different outings. We are also going to put together a video of our different outings that we will put on our website and show at these car shows.

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Meeting Minutes con't January 12, 2019

At this point in our meeting we were pleasantly interrupted by new members, Nancy and Bill Browning, who came in a little late, from Campbell; but were welcomed enthusiastically by all members present. They just bought a yellow 2002 Thunderbird.

Kim gave us an update on Whale Watching, on Sunday, April 14, in Moss Landing. It is \$35 per person, for a 3 to 4 hour tour from 10AM to 1PM. We will meet at the Buttercup Restaurant parking lot at 7AM. We will have lunch after we return. If you want to go, make out your check to BATOC, but send your check to Kim. She has 12 spots held and she has 3 or 4 spots still open.

Jim and Maria put together, "Bowling for Laughs", after our March 9th monthly meeting from 2PM to 3:30PM at the Livermore Granada Bowl. Dinner will be at the Rock House. Maria needs a headcount for bowling and a headcount for dinner.

Dave reminded us that the "killer outing of all times", would be our June 22nd, 61st anniversary party at the Ryde Hotel. It will be a Murder Mystery dinner, 50's theme. Our clubs New Historical Display may be shown for the first time. It is something you won't want to miss, so mark your June calendar for this event.

John Haffner reported on our Delta cruise for July 13th. It will be a breakfast cruise on the Rosemarie for 25 or more people for \$30 per person. It is a breakfast cruise for approximately five hours to Bethel Island. The cruise takes off at 10 AM. More details at a later date.

We had a technical session, following up from the material presented in the February newsletter, on overheating problems. Here are some steps to take:

- *#1 - get a heat gun and get the temperature of the block. Make sure it is really overheating.
- *Make sure block is clean
- *Clean radiator- Dot Radiator Shop in San Leandro.
- *Change thermostat -#6 Napa Auto Parts
- *Water pump insert
- *Bigger water pump
- *Get 10 ohm resistor in the wire going to the sending unit
- *Get five or six blade fan
- *Electric fan in front (for parades)

Lisa talked about our club jackets. If you don't have one, you should get one. The jackets are \$95 each and payment is due in advance.

After the raffle our president Dave Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:57AM.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Grech, Secretary

38 members in attendance

Last Reminder - 2019 CLUB DUES

Please pay your 2019 dues by March 30, 2019 (Rather than April 30, 2019). Dues are \$40 and can be paid by check. (Cash only in person.) Make out check to BATOC and send to:

Maria Guthrie
637 Yorkshire Ct.
Livermore CA 94551

PRES SAYS



THE TIN CAN TIED TO THE BUMPER

ALOHA...from 35,000 ft above the Pacific. Once again, I am just a lowly tin can tied to the bumper of Susan's plane on my way to 10 days ON THE Big Island in Hawaii. Oh, whoa is me. But, as some of you know, it has been a crazy couple of months for me and a whirlwind February that has included selling my house (that I thought I would never do) and embracing a totally new, free-er life that I know will be great – unknown, but great.

On the club front, February was a rather quiet month (as I recall anyway) with the oh-so-boring Super bowl game at Jim and Maria's. The party was great. The food was great. The company was great. But.....

February has been a big month of planning for various events including our Anniversary Murder Mystery from Guy & Mary, our Tesla factory tour from Tony & Kathy and our Whale Watching trip courtesy of the Dixon's. These are all fabulous outings that are bringing new, exciting adventures and locations to the club and I love the energy that is being put forth by everyone. That's why we are the best.

Of course, these "Large Scale" outings can't possibly over shadow the hilarity that is sure to happen at this month's upcoming bowling event on March 9th (after the meeting). If you haven't seen...or better yet, BEEN...an old geezer trying to keep his balls out of the gutter, you haven't lived. If you have, you know how fun this actually is and you should immediately sign up to put YOUR balls on the line. Please let the Guthrie's know if you plan to attend.

And speaking of the meeting, you will be in Guy's capable hands this month. I know some of you will see that as a blessing and will come to your first meeting in a long time for that very reason – but hey, whatever it takes to get you there....LOL.

Pres Says con't

Guy will share a lot of information about the Anniversary party and he will also have the new, reprinted calendars to share. Although everyone is technically "entitled" to a replacement calendar, it would be great if, when you take one, you kick in \$5.00 or so to help defray the cost of the reprints. And of course, if you didn't yet buy one – please do so for the original \$16.00 cost.

Also on Guy's agenda will be catching up with the several new members that we acquired while he was galivanting in Disneyland last month. We want to welcome those new members and hope that you come and welcome them yourself. We look forward to getting to know them and their cars.

And speaking of cars, I am aware of several cars that are for sale right now if anyone is interested. Three 1957's, one 1965 and one 2002. Call me if you want more info.

On a sad note. Our condolences to Tom & Lita Schaffer on the passing of Lita's Mom this month. It is never easy and unfortunately this is Lita's second loss in a short time. Our prayers are with you guys. We love you.

So, with all that said, and as I peer out the airplane window at the sunlight and the deep blue ocean, have a great month, a great meeting and have a great time tossing your balls down the alley.

Love You All

Dave

BATOC Classifieds

Please submit your ads to our classified section. We are soliciting inputs for the next issue. This can be car memorabilia, Thunderbird parts, or cars for sale. Please submit by Mar 20 to bjriley12@aol.com

Technical Tidbits

Many of us purchased the great booklet of Technical Tips From Thunderbird Land compiled by Robert DePaola. For those of you who haven't purchased it, or are too busy to study it, we will be highlighting many of the great writeups that are included in this booklet. Here is a tidbit on engine timing for Classic '55, '56, and '57 Thunderbirds.

Engine Timing by Gene Nelson

Occasionally you may find that engine performance is being affected by bad engine timing. Before you start messing with your timing you need to be sure that your ignition (wires, plugs, coil, points & dwell) and carburetion systems are all in good operating condition. If you have not done anything that would affect the timing, the first place to look for performance issues would be ignition and fuel problems.

Once you have checked everything and have concluded that engine timing is the issue, here are some things to look at when setting the timing on the Thunderbird engine. The Ford specification for our engines is available in the Thunderbird Shop Manual. The specifications vary slightly depending on the year of your car and whether you have an automatic or manual transmission. I have tried to use the factory setting on many Thunderbird engines using a timing light, but I have always found that it does not work. Our cars are now 50+ years old. There is likely to be a problem with the crank shaft dampener and pulley where the timing marks are scribed. Over the years the rubber in the pulley gets brittle and moves so that you no longer have an accurate timing mark to use. I have also found that the timing marks on new replacement pulleys are not accurate.

The only way to get proper timing is to make a rough setting and then do some road testing to get the best final results. If you are working with a rebuilt engine or one where the distributor has been replaced, you can use the timing mark to get the rough setting before you start your engine. I recommend using 10 degrees before top dead center as a starting point. When you are starting your engine after rebuild or a major repair disconnect the vacuum advance line and plug the hole in the carburetor to eliminate any vacuum leakage. Make sure you have good fuel in the tank, preferable 92 octane. When you start your engine advance or retard the timing as you run the starter until you get the engine

Technical Tidbits Con't

running smoothly with the highest RPM at the idle throttle setting. At this point, snug up the bolt, holding the distributor in position, but leave it loose enough so that you will be able to manually rotate the distributor during the road test.

Next, re-connect the vacuum line between the distributor and carburetor and make sure the vacuum advance is working properly. After the engine has had time to run in at low RPM, it is time to take it on a road test. Ideally you need to find a route with some hills that will put a load on the engine.

As you begin driving, be sensitive to engine performance and listen for any engine pinging when accelerating or when the engine is under load, such as climbing a hill. If the engine is running fairly well and there is no pinging, stop and advance the distributor slightly (clockwise rotation advances the timing). Start driving again and repeat this process as long as the performance improves.

At some point you will begin to notice some engine pinging under load or deteriorating performance. This means your timing is advanced too far. Now you will need to stop and slowly back off the timing until performance improves and there is no more engine ping under load. It is best to move the distributor in small increments when either advancing or retarding the timing. You do not need a measuring device to do this. You should be able to make these moves without any difficulty simply by tapping the distributor – as long as the retaining bolt is snug but not tight. I have found that Thunderbird engines like a lot of advance timing (more than the Shop Manual specifications, but remember you probably are not getting an accurate reading with your timing light) and they almost always run better as you advance timing until it starts to ping. When you have backed off the timing to eliminate any pinging, you should be set at an optimal driving point.

At this point, drive the car for a while before you tighten the distributor bolt. I have found that I will make another adjustment after driving for a week or more. When you are satisfied with drivability, securely tighten the distributor bolt and you should be ready to go for the summer. This would be a good time to use a marker and timing light to scribe a line in the dampener pulley to make top dead center for future reference. You might also want to make the distributor where it is mounted to the block.

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Super Bowl Sunday – Record Setting Victory

Maria and Jim Guthrie threw their annual Super Bowl bash. There was a tremendous turnout with wonderful goodies and fun times for all. Well, you have to hand it to Brady, Belichick and the Patriots - they are a true dynasty. Brady is now the oldest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, and Belichick is the oldest coach to win one. They are a great team. The LA Rams didn't quite have it this year, but being such a young team, we will probably be seeing a lot more of them in the future. We enjoyed celebrating Tony Lloyd's and Maria Guthrie's birthdays as well. Thanks to the Guthrie's for making it a wonderful day.



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Super Bowl Sunday Con't



STRIKE, SPARE, or GUTTER BALL

No matter your skill - there's fun for everyone!



JOIN US!!

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

Saturday, March 9th

Following the BATOC Monthly Meeting, we will meet at Granada Bowl in Livermore (1620 Railroad Ave). Lanes are reserved from 2 – 3:30pm and the cost is \$14 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 2nd to Maria and Jim Guthrie
(925) 292-7643**

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Oakland Aviation Museum's Open Cockpit Event

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM – OAKLAND, CA

More information: <https://www.batoc.org/upcoming-events/>

Directions: [8252 Earhart Rd, Oakland, CA 94621](#)

[Museum Website](#)

NorCal Vintage Thunderbird Club has been invited to take part in Open Cockpit Day at the Oakland Air Museum on March 17th. and they have asked us to join them. The museum would like us to bring our cars and park them around the larger planes in their outdoor yard. They are opening those planes to the public that day and the cars will make the event even better for them. If you haven't been there the museum is very special all by itself, with historic planes and equipment and stories of the people and events in aviation history. They would like our cars there between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.. Our admission to the museum is free for the day. They caution that this could be a "running board lunch" event so bring your own lunch because there is no place walk-able for food, although the Santa Clara Masonic Lodge will have refreshments available.

There are 15 spaces available under the planes so please let Nick know if you would like to park inside for a photo op and to help out the museum. Email Nick Verhoek at njbrv@aol.com



Whale Watching Trip

Sunday, April 14, 2019

\$35/person

Possible viewings include shore birds, sea lions, sea otters, dolphins, porpoises, whales, and possibly killer whales if we're lucky! Oh my!



"The High Spirits", operated by Blue Ocean Whale Watch, is a very nice boat that holds about 38 people. There is an indoor area if you prefer to sit inside, and as you can see, areas at the bow and up top for viewing. Captain Kate Cummings is our owner and captain and she provides an informative and fun day.

Itinerary:

- Depart Buttercup at 7 am
- Caravan 2 hrs to Moss Landing
- Park in paved lot at boat harbor. (\$6 fee payable to harbor master)
- Tour check-in is at 9:30 am
- Tour begins at 10 am (it is a 3 hour tour)
- Lunch after our lovely day out on the water at "The Haute Enchilada" near the harbor in Moss Landing (lunch is not included in \$35 cost)

***note**

getting to the boat there is some uneven footing, and you climb a short set of steps (maybe 5) to get on the boat. There are deck hands there to help you get on the boat.



Contact Kim Dixon to reserve your spot by April 1 (510-385-2483 or kdixon1124@yahoo.com)

Mail your \$35/person check made out to BATOC to Kim at:

807 Marin Rd. El Sobrante, CA 94803

No refunds after April 1st.

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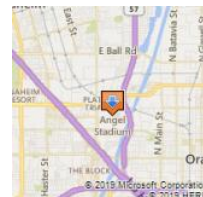
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- ***Fabulous Fords Forever! - April 14, 2019***
- ***THIS IS THE WEST COAST'S LARGEST ALL-FORD CAR SHOW!***
- Presented by the Ford Car Club Council and the Ford Motor Company, the show celebrates **ALL** Ford, Lincoln, and Mercury vehicles, from 1903 to current models.
- The 34th Annual Fabulous Fords Forever car show will take place on Sunday, April 14, 2019 and will be held at **NEW VENUE**: Angels Stadium of Anaheim. That's right, we've moved! Show times will be from 10:00am to 3:00pm.
- Entrance is **FREE FOR SPECTATORS!** Parking is **FREE FOR SPECTATORS at the Stadium!**
- Come celebrate 116 years of the Ford Motor Company, 80 years of Mercury, 60 years of the Ford Galaxie, and 55 years of the Ford Mustang! There will also be a special display honoring the 50th anniversary of the Boss Mustang and the Mach1 Mustang!
- There will be 57 show classes, music, stage interviews, a FABULOUS Ford display, displays from Shelby and Saleen, show sponsors, celebrities & more!
- To register go to this link:

[Fabulous Fords Forever - April 14, 2019](#)



CTCI CONVENTION
(CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB
INTERNATIONAL)



If you are not already a member of CTCI, please join today. Go to ctci.org
With this membership, you can attend all CTCI events and will receive the bimonthly publication, Early Bird.

21
JUL

**DANVILLE 2019 HOT
SUMMER SUNDAYS**

CAR SHOW
11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

18
AUG

\$25.00 Pre-Registration | \$30.00 Day of Show

Staging from 8:00 am to 11:00 am on Danville Boulevard.
680 Freeway, Exit El Cerro. Follow the signs to Danville
Boulevard. Turn Left. All cars must enter by 11:00am.

Pre-Registered Cars Are Guaranteed Entry to the Show.



**Inviting ALL YEAR Muscle Cars, Hot Rods,
Classics, Customs, Foreign and Exotic**

Family Friendly Event * Multiple Award Categories * VIP Judges
Collector T-Shirts * Live Entertainment * Great Restaurants * Outside Cafes
Courtesy of the Danville Merchants' Association – Shop Danville

**Special ABC Breaking News Award Presented by
ABC TV News Anchorman Dan Ashley**

ONLINE REGISTRATION @ WWW.DHSSCS.COM

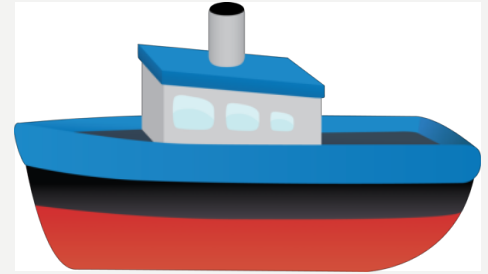
Vendor and Volunteer Opportunities Still Available
Please Call David at 925-437-3649 or by email ezasugo@yahoo.com

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Join your BATOC buddies and enjoy a six day Vancouver, BC to Los Angeles cruise on NCL's newest ship, Norwegian Bliss.



Bask in the lively charm of the west coast leaving September 30 for six days arriving in Los Angeles on October 6.

The cruise stops at Victoria, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Current cost per person is \$479 for inside, \$749 for ocean view and \$799 for balcony plus port taxes and tips. Estimated airfare is around \$400.

This is a heck of a good deal on a brand new ship! If you want to go, get on it now, and make your deposit. You can cancel later if you change your mind. Space is going fast, and our confirmed reservation just jumped \$100 overnight. Last year's BATOC cruisers had a great time.

Ed Benson (ebensonbwa@aol.com, 925-943-7011) is our sponsor, and he's working with Randi Schultz of [cruisentours4u](http://cruisentours4u.com), his long time cruise travel agent.

If you're interested, please sign up. If you have questions contact Randi Schultz or Ed at 925-943-7011, ebensonbwa@aol.com

Further information can be found on NCL's website:

<https://www.ncl.com/cruises/6-day-pacific-coastal-from-vancouver-BLISS6VANSEAVICSFOLAX/schedule?embarkationport=4294953420&destinations=4294961384&numberOfGuests=4294953449&state=null&sailmonths=4294942320&itineraryCode=BLISS6VANSEAVICSFOLAX&customerStoriesCurrentPage=1&customerStoriesPageSize=3>

Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club



2019 Calendar of Events

Winter – Meetings Jan 12 / Feb 9

January 19 – President's Mystery Tour (Adams)

February 3 – Super Bowl Party, Livermore (Guthrie)

Spring – Meetings Mar 9 / Apr 13 / May 11

March 9 – Bowling (Guthrie)

April 14 – Whale Watching (Dixon)

May 15-19 – CTCI Western Classic Roundup
Flagstaff, AZ

Summer – Meetings Jun 8 / Jul 13 / Aug 10

June 22 – Anniversary Party/Mystery Dinner (TBD)

July 13 – Delta Cruise (Haffner)

July 21 – Danville Car Show #1

Summer (continued)

Aug XX – Progressive Dinner Party

Aug 18 – Danville Car Show #2

Aug XX – Hearst Castle (Riley)

Autumn – Meetings Sept 14 / Oct 12 / Nov 9

Sept 14 – Alameda Car Show (Mathieson)

Sept 28 – Ironstone, Murphys, CA

Sept 28 – Birds on the Wharf, Santa Cruz

Sept 30 – Oct 6 – Cruise: Vancouver to LA (Benson)

Oct XX – Hearst Castle (Riley)

Oct XX – Tbird Calendar Meeting (Adams)

Nov XX –

Winter – Meeting Dec 14

Dec 8 – BATOC Holiday Party (Booth)



Updated 1/20/18

Ready to plan an event?

Let us know! marymac1234@gmail.com