



WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 10

OCT 2020



BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB (BATOC) CTCI Chapter 4

Upcoming Events

Event	Date
Monthly Meeting – Blackhawk Museum	Oct 10, 2020
Halloween	Oct 31, 2020

Note: Please stay tuned for emails, announcing details for upcoming meetings and events.

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

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

A new limited selection menu will be used when we reconvene, to keep us on budget!



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PRES MESS

SPOOKY, SPOOKY, SPOOKY

Pick the season. Pick the day. Pick the topic. Pick the political party. No matter what or where you look, it is a spooky view. And unfortunately, it doesn't seem that it will get any better, anytime soon. And now, with Trump testing positive, the volume of the political rhetoric is about to become deafening.

OCTOBER MEETING

For the last few months, we've done a great job of coming together for our very successful "Flash Drives" and very casual meetings. These have been great fun for all and have kept the club's comradery and momentum moving forward. Thanks to everyone for being a part of that. But now, let's move forward to bigger and better things with our next meeting on Saturday, October 10th at the Blackhawk Museum.

The Blackhawk Museum has invited us to use their fabulous Fountain Plaza to hold our meeting and display our cars in front of the museum and will be providing us with all the support we need to have our meeting in an exciting and safe environment. So that is what we shall do. We'll talk about CTCL elections, upcoming BATOC activities, this year's BATOC Calendar sales and how we will be moving forward as a club.

Many of you will remember that this was the location of BATOC's incredible 50th anniversary celebration in 2008. We've held numerous events at the museum, and they have always been a great friend to the club. This, of course, won't be quite so grandiose, but we will have a great time and will use this as the launch pad for getting back to our regular meeting format and conducting regular business meetings.

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PRES MESS

SPOOKY, SPOOKY, SPOOKY

The club will supply breakfast items such as coffee and donuts, etc. plus a little surprise to keep it interesting. Bring your car for the fabulous picture opportunity...bring your chairs and umbrellas...bring your cooler full of your own BYO???...and let's show BATOC's spirit to Blackhawk Plaza and show off our cars in this great setting. Unfortunately, the museum itself is still not open for touring, but a great time will still be had by all.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 10TH – 10:00 AM – BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir, Danville, CA 94506

AS THEY SAY - BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

We will have directional signs up when you arrive at Blackhawk Plaza and have the coffee and donuts ready. Bring your change for charity and your raffle prizes and let's get this club back to normal.

We'll discuss everything else at the meeting and we look forward to seeing everyone there. Let's make this a record turnout and put on a great display around the fountain. Don't miss it.



DAVE



Paul's Corner

Time for another newsletter. Lately I have seen a lot of people buying a baby bird on Facebook. I also have seen a lot of discussion about baby birds on Facebook. A lot of it positive some negative. The negatives are the usual about the handling and brake stopping power issues and of course running hot and vapor lock. The first one I want to discuss is the braking system. When the cars were new the brake system worked as designed. You could stop the car as quickly as was needed at that moment in time. Now I read about a lot of concern on how the car stops even in a normal situation. The effort needed is much greater than when the car was new. I often get asked about this, especially from a new owner. My definition of a good working brake system is as follows: The pedal should be rock hard with pedal at maximum height. It should not go down a significant amount when you step on the pedal. You also should be able to make the brakes lock up and skid. If you can't make it skid, then you won't be able to stop fast enough in an emergency situation i.e. a child runs out in front of you. If you don't have a rock-hard pedal with the pedal all the way up, you may have a problem. The first most common cause is the brake shoes out of adjustment. Simple check is to step on the pedal at a stop and determine how far down the pedal goes. Let the pedal up and apply the handbrake and see if the pedal travel is less. If it is, then the brakes need adjustment. Another test is to test the integrity of the hydraulic system for the brakes. Warm up the engine and step and hold the pedal down. It should be hard and stay hard. It should not sink or go lower if you maintain pressure on the pedal. If it starts to sink after a while than you most likely have a leak or bypass situation in the brake hydraulic system. Think of it as a leaky valve in your heart. The other test is to put your toes under the brake pedal and see if you can make the pedal come up about an inch or so. If it does come up, then the little tip on the end of brake pedal push rod is missing. It usually sticks to the master cylinder when it is changed, and the mechanic doesn't notice it. This causes the pedal to lose some of the power you apply with your foot to the pedal. I only recently discovered this on my own car. That little button makes a big difference in how the pedal applies hydraulic pressure to the brake shoe in order to stop the car. I came across this one day when I was stopped at a light. My big toe started to itch. So, I put my foot under the brake pedal in order to try to scratch it. I noticed that the pedal came up about an inch or so. This is not normal. There is a rubber stop that the pedal stops against when it is all the way up. Some brake pedal push rods are adjustable. This

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Paul's Corner

one was not. So, I called the third parts people and asked if there was something on the end of the push rod. He said, "Yes there is supposed to be a little button on the end". I got one, put it on, and the pedal was higher, and the brakes stopped the car noticeably better. In other words, it increased the STOPPING POWER of the brake system a lot. The other issue is if all of the above is correct and you still can't make the car skid, the problem most likely is in the brake lining material. The original factory lining had asbestos in it. Sometime in the 1990's some group lobbied the government to outlaw its use in the manufacturing of brake shoe linings. This greatly reduced the stopping power of the brake system. Again, you cannot make the tires lock up and skid. I noticed this big time on the hills of San Francisco, where my shop was located. My car has lining that I installed over 25 years ago, so it stops excellent. I recently ran across an article that seems to say that you can use asbestos lining again on a car that was manufactured before a certain date, which most old cars fall under. If this is true, then your brake system concerns will be over. I am going to research it further. Punch in asbestos brake shoes on Safari and it will lead you to the article. I know some of you have converted your car to disc brakes. The stopping power is better than non-asbestos brake shoes, but the ones I have driven you cannot lock up the brakes and skid in an emergency situation. The reason being is because the brake rotors used for the conversion are off of a 1975 Granada. I don't believe anyone makes premium brake pads for that car anymore. This is my opinion based on my 60 years of working on many types of cars both new and old. I have done, supervised, or overseen 50,000 repairs on all types of cars. Next month I will discuss over heating issues. Lots of times the problem is in the electrical parts in the gauge system. I will explain it in the next issue. Thanks for listening.

PAUL



It's A Handoff



After several years as BATOC's Webmaster, Guy Cummins, will be handing off this position to Mark Goldenberg, who is already Secretary, and also has been instrumental in digitizing all our historical records. Guy, of course, is our Vice President, and has been very successfully finding the club many new members, even during the pandemic. Thank you, Guy, for developing such a terrific website! We know Mark will be a great replacement for you, and will be able to integrate all the historical records into the website as well.



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News From Region 3 Director CTCI, Cathy Stubbs

It has been some time since I sent you my last update on happenings at CTCI. For many our lives seem to be on hold under the COVID pandemic, and with our practices of staying safe. It is great that many of our chapters continue to put out newsletters in an attempt to keep members informed and involved. If you are looking for fill for your newsletter, please feel free to share this letter with chapter members, especially those who do not have active emails. Also, I have enjoyed reading about how many of you have found ways to stay connected, through zoom meetings or with T-Bird cruises, and at the same time keeping the distance. It was a big disappointment for many of us not to be able to attend the 2020 CTCI International in Sarasota, Florida, this past May. The good news right now is the Trail Birds have announced the postponement of this event to April 20-24, 2021. While the pandemic continues with no definitive time for a vaccine, this announcement provides many of us with light at the end of the tunnel, in hopes of returning to a new normal in 2021. I will keep you informed to any changes in this event, or any other CTCI regional or driving events that may be approved for later in 2021.

The CTCI building in Signal Hills still remains listed for sale. While there has been some interest in the building, commercial real estate is in somewhat of a slump in Southern California. At a recent video board meeting, your board of directors approved a motion to extend the listing with CBRE for another six months with a lowered the asking price. The functional income for CTCI continues to improve. As of our recent meeting on August 14th, we are showing a credit balance (based on the accrual system) of about \$14,000.00. Our Treasurer did remind us that most CTCI expenses are fixed, while the income from dues, advertising, merchandise and invoice sales are variable. Our current cash, inventory and other assets are at approximately \$465,000. This does not include the Signal Hill property. You can view CTCI's most recent financial report on the CTCI website. This summer a committee was created to review the Bylaws and Operating Policies and Procedures. They have diligently been reviewing these documents for out of date and redundant policies. In July the board reviewed a number of recommended changes to the Bylaws.



News From Region 3 Director CTCI, cont.

These changes include redefining the definition of **membership** so the bylaws will clearly define the CTCI membership as a **"family" membership**, thus bringing this section of the Bylaws into compliance with California non-profit code. This fall all of the proposed changes will be published in the Early Bird, and a special election will be held for the membership to vote on the proposed changes.

CTCI just completed its first ever online survey. 3630 surveys were mailed to members with email addresses on file. 1600 members completed the survey – a 44.1% return. Answers to the questions have received a preliminary tally which the board will be going over in more detail. Hopefully, the results of this survey will be shared with the membership on a timely basis either through the Constant Connect, in the Early Bird, or both, so all members will have the opportunity to view. Some of the items of interest include: the median age of CTCI members is 73, 69.9% are retired, 53.9% belong to a local CTCI chapter, and 52.4% have been CTCI members for over 15 years. Also, members indicated they are most interested in the technical information in the Early Bird, and on the website, and 40% would be interested in CTCI sanctioned regional driving tours, if they are less than 200 miles roundtrip from their homes. In

response to driving tours, the CTCI board is exploring a sanctioned driving tour in Branson, Missouri, in the fall of 2021.

The annual CTCI Directors election will be upon us soon. This year members will be voting on Directors for Regions 2, 4, and 6, along with one Director-at-Large. The primary and preferred way of voting is via electronic ballot for all who have a good email address on file. For those of you who have received this letter via snail mail, if you have **not** been receiving CTCI Constant Contact updates, or the recent survey, that is an indication that your email is not on file or is incorrect. As reported previously those without valid emails on file will not be sent paper ballots. This was voted upon by the 2019 board, and re-enforced by the 2020 board. **Instead you are being asked to call the CTCI office at 1-800-488-2709 to request a paper ballot, or to have your email address updated. Please make this call before September 15th.**

Whether you vote electronically, or by paper ballot, it is important that you vote.



News From Region 3 Director CTCl, cont.

This is your only chance each year to choose your next board members who will represent your stand on management and the future direction of CTCl. Many choose not to vote because they do not know the candidates who are running. In order to help evaluate these candidates, you can ask yourself the following questions: 1) Is the board well represented by returning board members (5 will return), by members who have never served on the board, and represent fresh ideas and outside experience, and past board members who can share CTCl history, legacies, and past practices when needed, and also are willing to discuss and bring about change. 2) Do my choices represent what I foresee for the future of CTCl and the classic car hobby? 3) Are the board members well represented geographically, or concentrated in one area? By voting you are demonstrating to the CTCl Board of Directors that you care about CTCl as your Thunderbird club, and as your Thunderbird family.

On the upcoming ballot you will also be asked to vote on the relocation of CTCl from the state of California to the state of Wyoming. This is not a physical move to Wyoming but is a change in the state of incorporation as explained on page 10 of the July/August 2020 Early Bird. Prior to voting please take the time to understand the explanation as presented by the Board on this page and ask questions on anything that is unclear.

Thank you for taking the time to read this rather lengthy update. As in the past I have made every attempt to present the facts as I know them. They may not represent the opinions of other board members. My door is always open to you, so please let me know if you have any questions, comments or ideas. It is my desire to keep the members of Region 3 updated, informed, to answer all of your inquiries, and share your ideas with the CTCl board. Please stay safe and continue to keep the distance, so that we may all meet up again in better times.

Happy Thunderbirding!

Cathy Stubbs



Free Trial CTCI Membership

CTCI has rolled out a fantastic new promotion that will run for the rest of 2020. Interested parties can take "CTCI Membership" for a test drive and sign up as a member for the rest of the year absolutely free. They will get a new member Welcome Packet, the Nov-Dec issue of Early Bird, the works! Here is a great opportunity for club members who are not CTCI members to "test drive" the CTCI experience. Here is the link to sign up:

<https://ctcitestdrive.com/>





Kyle Busch's Wife Has a Little Bird, Named Rose

I am sure many of you follow NASCAR racing. Well, one of the top drivers is Kyle Busch. He is a two-time NASCAR champion already. Though he drives a Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, look what car he bought for his lovely wife, Samantha. Yes, it is a '57 Dusk Rose Ford Thunderbird, named Rose. Isn't she lovely! Both of them!





Fall Is Here!





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Please keep us informed of any roster changes you might have.
Email your changes to Jean Riley at bjriley12@aol.com



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Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club

2020 Calendar of Events



WINTER:

Please note: no breakfast meeting

January 11 – President's Mystery Tour (Adams)

February 2 – Super Bowl Party, Livermore (Guthrie)

February 8 – Monthly Breakfast at The Buttercup

SPRING:

March 14 – ~~Monthly Breakfast at The Buttercup~~

March 17 – ~~St. Patty's Day Lunch~~ (Cummins)

March 21 – ~~Day trip to Occidental, CA~~ (Adams)

April 11 – ~~Monthly Breakfast at The Buttercup~~

April 18 – ~~Vintage Races at Sonoma Raceway~~
(Patterson)

April 26 – ~~Pacific Coast Dream Machines, Half
Moon Bay~~, (Verhoek)

May 9 – ~~Monthly Breakfast at The Buttercup~~

May 30 – ~~Wine tasting at the Bensons~~ (Benson)

SUMMER:

Please note: no breakfast meeting

TBD – ~~62nd Anniversary Party~~ (Perry, Guthrie,
Derby, Patterson)

SUMMER: (continued)

July 11 – ~~Monthly Breakfast at The Buttercup~~

July 19 – ~~Danville Car Show #1~~

July ?? – ~~PeeWee Golf~~ (Guthrie)

Aug 8 – Monthly Breakfast – Hap McGee Park
socially distant gathering @ 10Am

FALL:

Sept. 12 – Monthly Breakfast – Meet at Buttercup
@ 10am for 10:30am departure for drive and picnic

Sept. 12 – Orinda Classic Car Tour @ 10:30am
(Verhoek)

Sept 26-27 – Ironstone, Murphys, CA

Oct 3 – ~~Birds on the Wharf, Santa Cruz~~

Oct 2-4 – ~~Fall Colors Car Show, Bishop, CA~~

Oct 10 – Monthly Breakfast – Details to follow

Oct 17 – PeeWee Golf.??, Livermore (Gruffie)

Nov 14 – Monthly Breakfast - TBD

WINTER:

Please note: no breakfast meeting

Dec 12 – BATOC Holiday Party - TBD



Ready to plan an event?
Let Lisa know! (ekderby@hotmail.com)

