



**Chapter of VTCI Publication of the LONG ISLAND THUNDERBIRD CLUB Silver Award 202
JANUARY 2026**

Robert Fligel's 2004 Retro Thunderbird

Growing up in Charlotte North Carolina in the '50s and '60s, having a Thunderbird was of omigod significance. I moved to New York in the 1970s and never saw a retro Thunderbird until a car show in New Rochelle, NY in September 2025. I was immediately smitten resulting in research leading to purchase of this car. Happy motoring to all.



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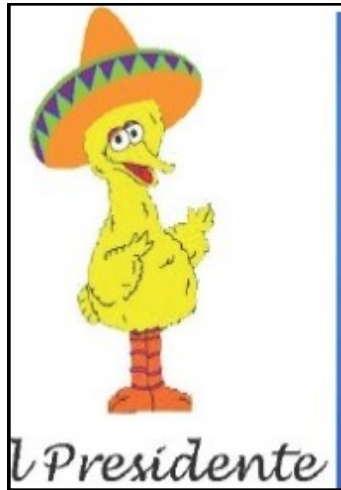
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Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season

And a Healthy, Prosperous New Year

First Club Meeting of 2025

Wednesday January 7th

Guest Speaker David Gomes

Hope all are well and looking forward to 2026. Our first club meeting of the year is Wednesday January 7th at the Hauppauge Palace Diner and we will have a guest speaker from RJ Fregenti Insurance David Gomes. First pitch is at 7 PM.

Enduring Care Update

Enduring Care Update: Charlie Armstrong informs me that they raised \$4,500 and filled two pickups with donations. Great news!

Show Me the Money

2026 Club Dues is Due Now: Just a friendly reminder that your dues for 2026 are due now. Please make your check payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club and mail it to yours truly at: **Elliott Weiner at 87 Ruth Street Smithtown N.Y, 11787**

Front Cover

Front Cover for January: Is New member Robert Fligel and his 2004 Retro Bird.

Interesting story again, and you know I always repeat myself. While trolling through Facebook I ran across Robert and his tire question. Everything else is history.

2026 Thunderbird Show Flyer

2026 Thunderbird Show on Sunday November 15th at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport: On Page #9 of this issue of BT you will find our first pass of our show flyer for 2026. Please keep in mind it's only the first pass and things may change as we get closer to November. First off, a couple of items; the cost of \$30 may change because we have to kick back X amount of bucks to the museum for the use of their venue. Keep in mind this is a pre-register event with a maximum of only fifty Thunderbirds allowed.

No day of show money. Next, is the date of November 15th. That could change but no matter, the date the show will be is in November. As we get closer to the show with each month going forward, I will have more info. Please do not send me any money now.

Act II

Saturday November 27th Thanksgiving Parade in Patchogue: For the second or third year in a row I was invited to participate in Thanksgiving Parade in Patchogue. I arrived at Dennis Benfante's house a little before 4 PM because I asked him a few days earlier if he would put air in my tires. I can hardly walk or bend down and try to get back up. We arrived at the staging area in town a little before 5 PM. Said hello to some of the guys and gals from TONY and then sat in my car till about 6:30 which was start your engines time. This parade has to be one of the longest on the Island with thousands of spectators in attendance. Caught a brake tonight with the weather, no wind to speak of and the cold was bearable. Between Big Bird and TONY we had eight vehicles with seven being Thunderbirds and one Mustang. Overall no injuries and was home by nine. Plus, not one but two *porta poties*. Hal a Freaking Luya.....

Parade Footnote: Because we were parked on a very dark street with no real lighting there are no pictures from this event.

L I Club Council Meeting Sunday January 11th

LI Club Council Meeting Sundy January 11th: I cover this event every year and try to get all up to speed to what they are trying to accomplish. Next year it's Sunday January 11th in Williston Park at the American legion Hall. The fee to participate is \$30.00 and I already cut a check and it's in the mail. This is probably my last Council Meeting because my tenure as President will end December of 2026. I'm sure it's the same old Rederick but it will give us visibility for our show and in 2027 it will be up to The "Count" if he wants to continue. I covered this last year in my January message and it does not pay to beat a dead horse. In February I will bring all up to speed on what when and where there were any injuries.

2026 CLUB DUES IS DUE NOW

...any drone sittings and, you're Welcome..... **President Massage continued on page 4**

A message from John Bianco, Co-President

We want to know what you would like to see from the LITC in 2026. Seriously, what club activities, events, or venues should we consider for club gatherings? Are you tired of meetings at the same ol' diner? Are the meeting locations not convenient; should we mix up the locations? Should meetings not focus on food? How about a night out bowling or mini-golf? Come on folks, we want ideas that are "G" or "PG" rated. It's our club, let's have some fun! Let us know by emailing jake8687@verizon.net Just click the links for the email bigbird1900@aol.com

Cold weather is setting in and hopefully your Bird is warm under cover. After the holidays have passed and the days begin to ever so slowly get longer, some of us may catch up on watching some movies. Think about all the great car movies there have been: "Bullitt", "The French Connection", "The Italian Job", "Mad Max", "The Blues Brothers", "Baby Driver", "The Seven-Ups", etc.. All these had some cool cars and great car chases of course. But what about some TV shows or car movies featuring the legendary Ford Thunderbird?

"Vega\$", the TV series, featured car hero was the '57 Thunderbird driven by Dan Tanna played by Robert Urich. And movies: "Thelma and Louise" in their '66, "The Outsiders" with a '66, "Goldfinger" with a '64, "Die Another Day" with an '02. For me one of the more renowned appearances by a Thunderbird has to be the '56 white Thunderbird in "American Graffiti" driven by that mysterious blonde who captured the heart of the character Curt Henderson played by Richard Dreyfus. Perhaps I'm a bit biased, but of all the cars and rods in that movie, that white '56 stayed with me because Curt was the underdog hero in the movie. I'm sure we all were cheering for Curt to hook up with the blonde. Surely, the Wolfman would make it happen for Curt! With help from the Wolfman, Curt finally speaks to her over the phone. Even though Curt was flying off to college the next morning, he spotted the blonde's Thunderbird driving below as his plane was taking off. Alas! There's hope for Curt! And who was that young blonde lovely driving the white Thunderbird? None other than Suzanne Somers! So, grab a single malt and get a Netflix or other streaming subscription and start watching.

Ciao!
The Count



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Cruise Listings

MONDAY

Autofest Cruise night 5:30-9pm Syosset VFW Hall 20 Queens St

Stop & Shop West Islip Union Blvd east of Higbe Lane

Main St East Rockaway @Villa Marcia Restaurant 6pm

Bald Hill Farmingville

Town of Oyster Bay - Main Street

TUESDAY

Patchogue - Mt Carmel Church 495 N Ocean Ave

WEDNESDAY

Village of Westbury Madison St parking field #4 5pm to 9pm

Shirley KFC - William Floyd Parkway

Sea Cliff Fire Dept Cruise Night Sea Cliff Ave & Main St starts June 13th
5:30 to 8:00pm \$5.00 car fee

King Kullen parking lot Jericho TPK Garden City evenings

THURSDAY

Milleridge Inn Restaurant Jericho Starts 3pm

Downtown Mineola Classic Motor Night Main St 6-9pm 7/7 thu 9/29

Village of Lynbrook - Street Show (Atlantic Ave.)

Kings Park Plaza, Kings Park Indian Head Rd (Key Food) Sponsored by
Kings Park Chamber of Commerce Room for several hundred cars

Riverhead on the water front behind Main St weather permitting including
DJ & Refreshments

Glen Cove School St & Glen St Sponsored by Glen Cove Fire Dept \$5 Donation
info Bob Citko 516-676-0366

Yaphank Fire Dept Yaphank Thursday

Town of Oyster Bay - Main Street

West Islip Villa Monaco Restaurant 778 Montauk Hwy 6pm Room for 150
cars food & facilities on site Long Island Road Gents-Ray Rendina 516-523-
7130 or 631-661-3838

Friday

Bellmore train Station Lot Sunrise Hwy & Bellmore Ave Sponsored by
Town of Oyster Bay

Valley Stream Rockaway Ave Cruise Night 5/31 to 8,30 6-9pm

SATURDAY

Islip Town Hall 655 Main St Islip 5-9pm

McDonalds Sunrise Hwy West Islip

Event Schedule 2026

All dates to be updated when confirmed

Breakfast with "The Boss"

Saturday March 7th Hauppauge Palace diner

Easter Parade- Garden City-April 5th

Car's and Guitar's @ Miller Ale House Commack
Sunday April 26th

National Thunderbird Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 17th Keyfood Shopping Center Kings Park

Ford Nationals Carlisle, Pa. June 4- 6th

North Jersey Thunderbird Club Show June 20th Saturday

Cross Road Church 649 Franklin Ave Franklin Lakes New Jersey

ST Anthony Car Show Dix Hills Centurion Cruisers

Sunday June 21th 275 Wolf Hill Rd S Huntington

Collector Car Appreciation Day Friday, July 10th

Smithtown Rehab Center Wednesday August 10th 2-4pm

391 N Country Rd Smithtown Hours 2-4 pm

Mustang -Shelby Club -Bank of America paking lot East Islip

Pre Register Event

Sunday September Sat 6th—Rain Date Sun 13th

Must pre register

Sayville Ford All Ford Show

September 13th Sunday

Mustang-Shelby Club at the Vanderbilt Museum

November TBA

Must pre register

Food &Toy Drive Brookhaven Town Hall

Sunday, November TBA

Operation Enduring Caring Sunday November TBA

Walt Whitman HS

Buy & Sell

Parts for Sale: 1964-44 Ford Thunderbird, New Drivers Side quarter repair panel, motor, transmissions, fenders ,trunk lids, glass, interior, parts bought & sold. **Frank Del Rossi (704) 483-9554** 1965 Ford Thunderbird Special Edition Landau NOS Deluxe Spinner wheel covers (TWO) with Ford Boxes. \$400.00 Firm. Plus shipping.
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Club Jackets Contact Elliott Wiener for details and orders



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Long Island Thunderbirds
Membership/Renewal Application

Indoor meetings are held on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Dues: \$30.00 (Jan 1st-Dec 31st)

****Voluntary Contribution to Club's Charity Fund: \$10__ \$15__ \$20__ Other \$__**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

Fax Number/Other Phone () _____

Birthday Month _____ First Name of Significant Other: _____

How did you hear about LITC _____?

What is your reason for joining _____?

Would you be willing to serve on any committees _____?

Car Info

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____

Year _____ Model _____ Color _____

Please enclose a color photo of your car (optional)

**Mail completed application
and check payable to:**

Long Island T-Bird Club to:

Elliott Weiner

87 Ruth St

Smithtown, NY 11787

516-445-2630

Email: Bigbird1900@aol.com



**First Annual
All Thunderbird Car Show
Sunday November 15, 2026
9 :00 AM – 3:00 PM**



Vanderbilt Museum

180 Little Neck Road Centerport New York

(No Rain Date)

This is a Pre-Registered Event

Cost is \$30.00

Checks Payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club

87 Ruth Street Smithtown New York 11787



Top 25 Awards



Food and restrooms on site

Music by ?



Fire Extinguishers

Highly Recommended

Vehicles must be on show field by
10 AM in order to be judged



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Contact Elliott Weiner 516 445 2630



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LITC Scheduled Outdoor Meetings 2026

(Rain dates one week later)

Wednesday April 14th-Burger King Farmingdale

Sunday May 17th Thunderbird Appreciation Day

Pizza Night

Gino's Restaurant Kings Park

Wednesday June 18th 6:pm RSVP

July & August TBA

Scheduled Indoor Meeting 2026 Thru March

LITC meets Wednesdays starting at 7 PM

Hauppauge Palace Diner

525 Smithtown By Pass See Ad Page 7

Wednesday January 7th

Wednesday February 4th

Wednesday March 11th

Wednesday September 16th

Wednesday October 14th

Wednesday November 11th

CLUB STORE

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Club Pins - \$5.00

Club Masks \$10.00

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Ed Muro

Bill Rappel

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L.I. THUNDERBIRD CLUB NEXT INDOOR MEETING

DATE : February 7th Wednesday

PLACE Hauppauge Palace Diner

TIME : 7:00pm

Directions : See Ad Page 5



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**Long Island Thunderbird Club
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516 445 2630
Phone**

December 1, 2025

Dear LITC Member,

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

2026 DUES OF \$30.00 ARE DUE

LITC Offers:

- Bird Talk Our Monthly Club Newsletter
- Five Outdoor Meetings at various location on the Island
- Six Indoor Meetings
- Annual Elections – Suspended For 2025
- Tech Articles, and Advise All Year Long
- Parts Through Our Advertisers & Classifieds
- Special Bonding of Hobbyists with Common Goals
- All Thunderbird Show at the Vanderbilt Museum in 2026

Please take a moment now, to write your check made payable to Long Island Thunderbird Club to continue receiving the benefits of membership in the Club, and mail to me at the above address, and thank you for continuing with us.

Don't forget if you wish to donate additional monies for Building Homes for Heroes just add that amount to your check and we thank you

Essiett

Robert Fligel's 2004 Retro Thunderbird





Revised Club Logo



VTCT Membership Application Form

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROVINCE _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: _____

YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

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January / February	\$40.00
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May / June	\$30.00
July / August	\$25.00
September / October	\$55.00
November / December	\$50.00

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Countries

\$60.00
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\$45.00
\$40.00
\$90.00 includes next year
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VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

(if different from above-please print) _____

Signature _____

Please make check payable & mail to:
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

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*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.

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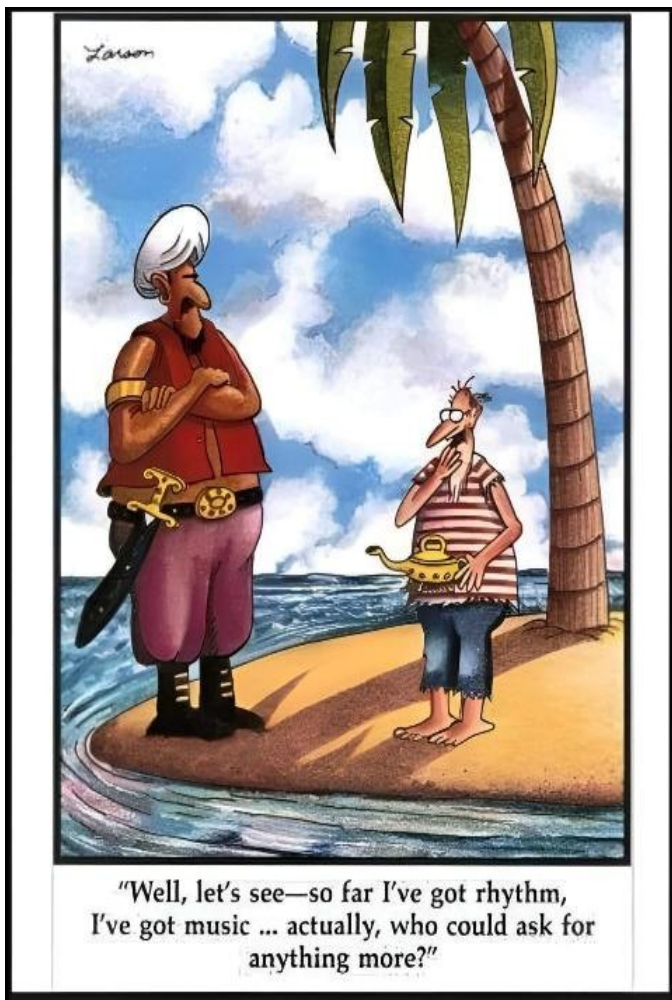
CALL: (415) 269-0055



See our ad in the Early Bird September-October 2025 - page 52

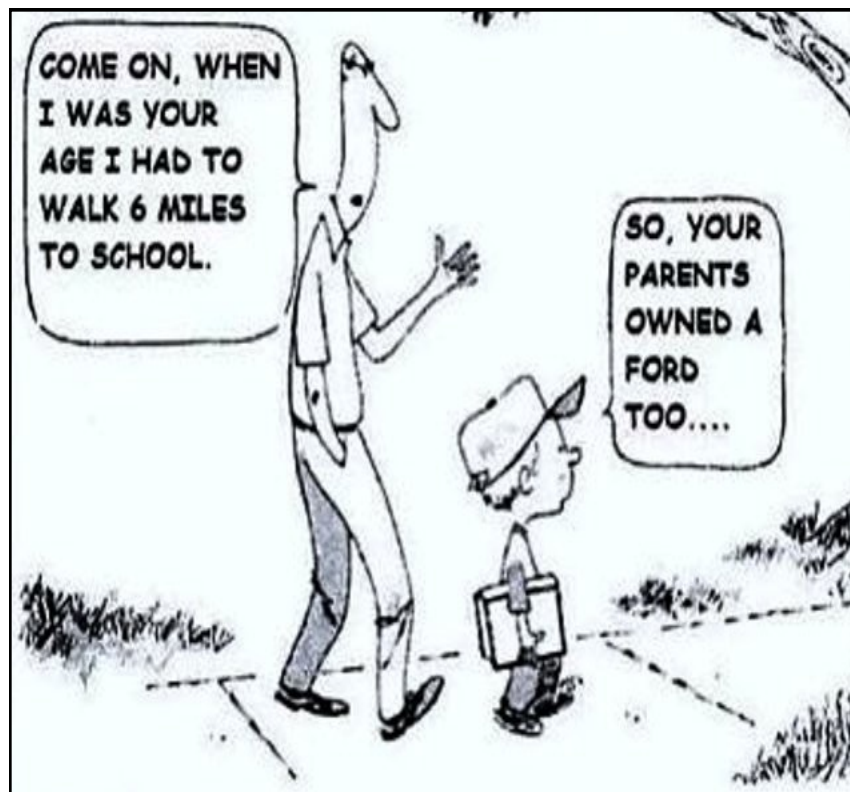
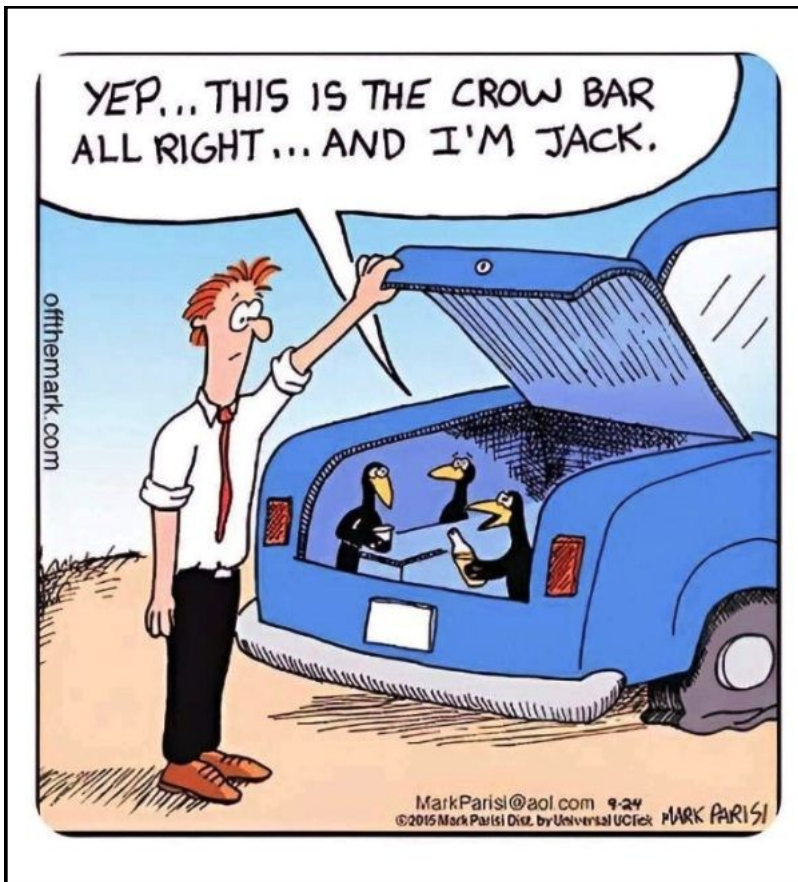
ORDER NOW





I pointed at two old drunks sitting across the bar from us and said to my friend, "That's us in 10 years." He replied, "That's a mirror, silly."

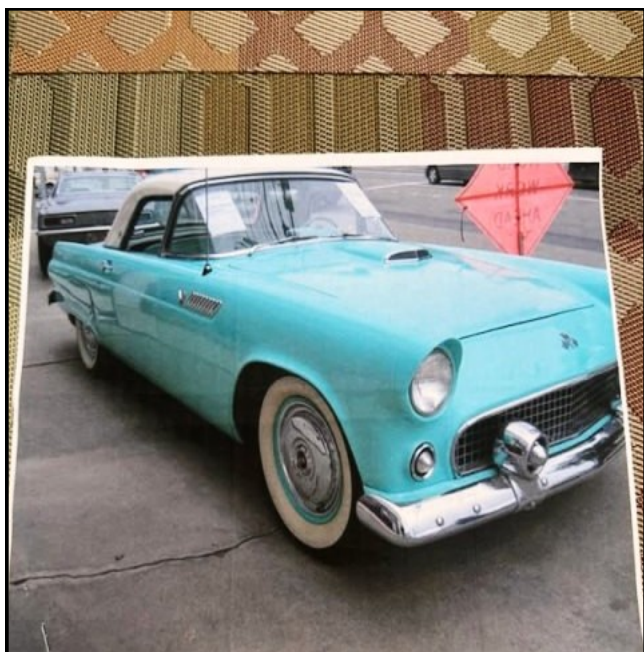




Mary Skelly 1968 Thunderbirds



For Sale 1955 Thunderbird Contact owner Pat Capuro 631 275 4797 Asking 24K



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New Starter , Voltage regulator

New Radiator overflow tube and hoses

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Fuel pump 12V generator

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Detail and Dyed Interior