



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

Hey Guys.... Alan here – coming down to Florida was the best move I ever made. The weather is perfect, and you know I couldn't leave my '56 Thunderbird behind. I call her "Thunder", and let me tell you, she's loving this sunshine as much as I am.

Back home, she'd be tucked away under cover for half the year, but here? It's 2026 and we're out every single weekend. I've been taking Thunder for 'walks' through the local parks, and there's nothing like cruising on A1A with the top down when it's 75 degrees out. People actually stop and wave—it's like she's a local celebrity.

just did a Classic Car Show in Boca at the end of January. The atmosphere was so laid back, and everyone was incredibly welcoming. In March, I'm definitely taking her to the Club's Classic Car Show with live music and lots of vintage cars. It's a literal movie down here for car lovers.



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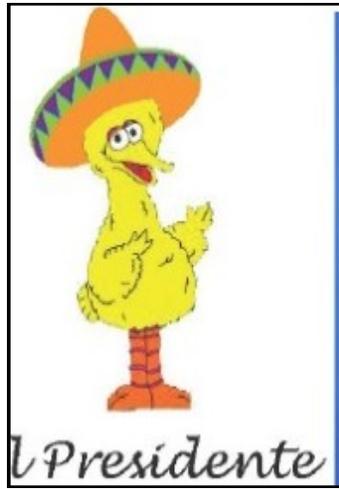
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**Breakfast with Both Boss's**  
**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**March is Detailing Month March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hauppauge Palace Diner**  
**With Guest Speakers From Paul Distribution**  
**Happy St Pats Day**  
**Last Call for Dues**

Shalom:

Hope all are well and safe

So how cold was or is it? It was so cold! There was really no answer to this subject but I did go to bed with my thermal socks and at eighty-three years old the cold was unbearable. OK let's get back to business. Last year at this time I started off by telling the world that there is no more All Ford Show for us at Kings Park but this year we have a new wrinkle in the armor. It's an All Thunderbird Show on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport. At this time there is no info. to share with you except it's a pre-register event with a max of only fifty Birds, so at this time please do not send me money for the event. We are still trying to figure this out. Also, this is our show with TONY not involved unless they want to come and participate.

**Breakfast with the Boss Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hauppauge Palace Diner**  
**525 Smithtown Bypass**

**Breakfast with the Boss/Hauppauge Palace Diner/Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>:** This event has been an annual tradition for our club for many years and it's a great time to sit down with fellow club members, talk cars and have a freaking good time. Game time is 9 AM sharp and dress is casual. If Mother Nature cooperates, bring your Thunderbird. The Diner is located on Route 347 and Route 111 in Hauppauge. It's where we have our club indoor meetings. FYI, it's a RSVP event so if you're coming just respond to my email or call me, your choice.

**Paul's Distribution March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Paul's Distribution in West Islip & Freeport:** I have invited Paul and Alison from Paul's Distribution Company to come to our March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and talk about what they do in regards to our hobby and Thunderbird's. They are in the detailing business with the products they sell and demonstrate. I thought this would be a change of pace from me so you could hear it from the pro's that do this as a business, and it would be entertaining. Hopefully, they will bring some giveaways and for us a 50/50 for cash. Please put this day aside and let's have a great turnout.

**Last Call for 2026 Club Dues Show Me the Money**

**Last Call for Dues @ \$30.00:** If your 2026 club dues is not paid by the time you receive BT for March you are done, finished, etc. You will be deleted from our active club roster and never heard from us again until dues are paid.

**Front Cover**

**Front Cover March & April:** A special thank you to Frank Del Rossi and Alan Nathanson for stepping up to the plate and sending me pictures and text for the front cover of this issue of Bird Talk and April. This month we feature Alan and his 56 Thunderbird. Right now, he is in warmer climate and we hope to see him in the near future.

**Junior Power Cars**

**Junior Power Cars/Article:** An interesting article about the junior power cars back in the fifties and sixties. If you have one it may be worth big bucks. Thank you, Ray Clark, from South Texas Thunderbird Club (VTCD)

**Continued on Page 8**

## A message from John Bianco, Co-President

This month's Bird Talk has a separate addendum which reports on the results of the survey sent out mid-January. It is imperative that you read those results to see what your fellow club members not only had to say about our club but things that perhaps may warrant some changes for 2027. Again, we would like to know your feedback on those results by simply responding to this email. Would silence mean consent?



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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 Dona-  
tion 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

### Breakfast with "The Boss"

**Saturday March 7th** Hauppauge Palace diner

**Easter Parade-** Garden City—April 5th

### 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 14th 275 Wolf Hill Rd S Huntington

**Sunday June 14th All Ford Show Pt Jefferson**

### Collector Car Appreciation Day July 10th

Wednesday July 15th St Elizabeth in Dix Hills

**Garage Stop** Legendary Motion Bellmore July 18th

**Smithtown Rehab Center** Wednesday August 10th 2-4pm

391 N Country Rd Smithtown Hours 2-4 pm

**All Ford Charity Show Bank of America parking lot East Islip**

### Pre Register Event

Sunday September Sat 13th—Rain Date Sun 20th

### Must pre register

### Sayville Ford All Ford Show

**Sunday October 11th**

**September 13th Sunday**

**Mustang-Shelby Club at the Vanderbilt Museum**

November 1st Sunday **Must pre register**

### Food & Toy Drive Brookhaven Town Hall

Sunday, November TBA

Sunday November 1st All Ford Show Vanderbilt Museum

**Operation Enduring Caring** Sunday November 8th

**Walt Whitman HS**

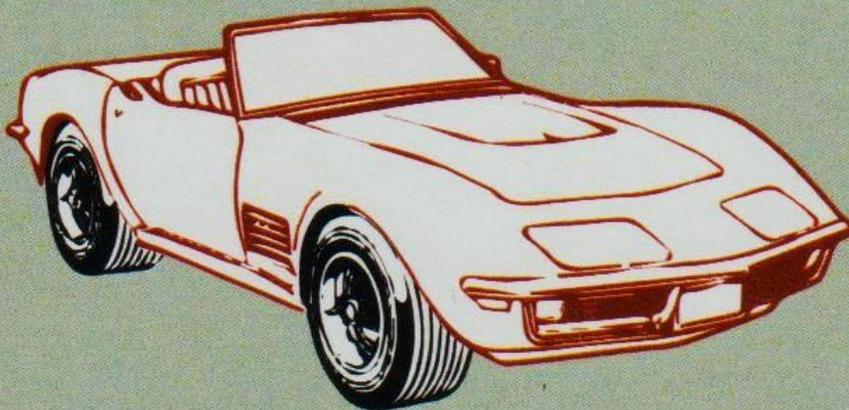
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## **2004-2005 Retro Thunderbirds**

**2004-2005 Retro Thunderbird/Build Sheets:** In the extra pages of this edition of Bird Talk you will find some interesting info if you own a 04 or 05 Retro Bird. Read the text thru and if your interested contact john@tbirdinfo from Thunderbird Registry

## **Sad Hobby News**

**Sad Hobby News:** On Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> Terri McNeill Publication Director/Senior Editor/Webmaster of the VTCI has passed away. I did not know Terri personally but I did meet her once in New Jersey in 2019, but what I know of her and her work ethics, she was something special. We extend our condolences to her family

## **February 4<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting**

### **Canceled**

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting:** Canceled due to lack of interest and cold and ice. I hate to be the total pessimist but when I email everyone in regard to a topic or topics at least you can do is respond. Hopefully, our March meeting will be more entertaining.

## **VTCI Membership**

**Vintage Thunderbird Club International:** This is my annual membership drive to get you to join our National Club of which we are a chapter. Not sure, but I think we have at least eight members of LITC who are members of VTCI. Their newsletter "Scoop" is outstanding with articles, tech tips, and many pictures of what's going on in our hobby. I have been to two National VTCI shows 2007 and 2019, both in New Jersey. Their annual dues are \$40.00 and it's worth every penny. The application to join is in our extra pages of this newsletter.

## **First Outdoor Meeting**

### **Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**April Meeting Reminder/Burger King in Farmingdale:** Remember: if our meeting on Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> gets canceled due to poor weather it will move to the following Wednesday.

## **Early Heads Up**

**Early Heads Up & Not One of My Priority's:** Rumor has it that TONY will try once again to have their All-Ford Show in Kings Park on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Personally, I will not be there or support it as they most likely will screw it up anyway. Those guys thru the years where so unhappy with whatever Dennis, Ken and I did and now it's their turn. You can go if you wish but I will not be there.

## **Hemmings Motor Club**

**Hemmings Motor Club:** I just recently signed up for Hemmings Motor Club on their website. If you look in the extra pages of this edition of BT you will see a flyer that depicts Hemmings getting involved with car shows on Long Island. So I signed up and all I get is emails about auctions. Plus, they want you to join the club for \$135.00 annually with automatic renewal for future years. I have been subscriber for many years with the monthly classified magazine and their classic magazine which stopped publishing a while ago but now I have decided to unsubscribe from their emails but to continue my subscription. There were way too many emails on a daily basis along with all the other emails from various sources.

## **Page #6**

### **Cruise Listing & Event Schedule 2026**

**Page #6 Revised:** We have revised page #6 in chronologic order to make life easier in dealing with our monthly events

**...Buckle Up... be warm and safe... and 'you're welcome'.**



**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**

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10 AM in order to be judged



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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

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Club Pins - \$5.00

Club Masks \$10.00

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**MARCH**

**Tom DeNunzio**

**Vincent Famulari**

**Ed Mirabella**

**Paul Rosina**

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**L.I. THUNDERBIRD CLUB NEXT INDOOR MEETING**

**DATE : March 11th Wednesday**

**PLACE Hauppauge Palace Diner**

**TIME : 7:00pm**

**Directions : See Ad Page 5**



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**Long Island Thunderbird Club**  
**87 Ruth Street**  
**Smithtown, N.Y. 11787**  
**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*

# Alan Nathansons 1956 Bird



# Alan Nathansons 1956 Bird



## “JUNIOR” PRODUCTION NUMBERS – KNOWN “JUNIOR” POWER PRODUCTION COMPANIES

The “Junior” Power Cars by Ford were named “Powered Promotional Cars” to introduce customers to their new models, the “Thunderbird” & “Mustang”. They were a smash hit and caused the other 2 companies of the Big 3 to replicate that activity in their line of cars.

Third Junior Production Numbers 1955-1967. By Powercar Co.

According to George Ford (no relation to Henry) that ran the company they made about 5,000 mini-Thunderbirds from 1955-67. They were sold by dealers for \$400-\$500 to match a full sized Thunderbird just bought, or given away, sometimes in drawings at Ford dealerships, Coca-Cola, Pepsi Cola and Tide and even at Laundromats and Dairies. In 1960 Turkish Taffy offered the winner of their jingle contest choice of a 1960 Thunderbird Junior or Plymouth Fury Junior. Today there are Bugatti, Ferrari and Porsche Juniors selling for \$15,000 - \$25,000! Most Juniors were electric/battery powered, later small gas engine powered.



## 2004-2005 Retro Thunderbirds

**Do you own a 2004 or 2005 Thunderbird? \* \* \* I have a few hundred factory "build sheets" for the 04-05 cars. They are, in my opinion, really "assembly line presence" sheets. They have the VIN, the Rotation Number, and some basic component information... as well as a date and time stamp. In some cases I have a Component Build Sheet, which shows the car VIN and when the component (such as instrument panel) was assembled at Ford's Saline Plastics Plant. \* \***

**\* I have one type or the other, and sometimes both. \* \* \* There were 12,757 of the 2004 built and I have approximately 7% of that number. There were about 9,300 of the 2005 built and likewise I have a small percentage. The sheets are not in consecutive order, with small and large gaps. \* \* \* I do not have 2002-2003 sheets \* \* \***

**If you are interested in getting the sheet for your car, I will check the inventory. Send an email to me [john@tbird.info](mailto:john@tbird.info) with the VIN of your car, please double check for accuracy before you hit SEND. Do not send a Facebook message or make a comment, I will not answer. \* \* \* If I have the paper(s) for your car, I will ask that you prove you are the current owner, and send it to you. If you are a former owner and can likewise prove that, I will send an image of the paper. I am not selling anything, I am not asking for payment, I just want to get as many documents as possible in the hands of owners. \* \* \* \* Do not make a comment here about your car, do not send a FB message. My email is [john@tbird.info](mailto:john@tbird.info) \*\*\* 2004 and 2005 only\*\*\***



## Fueling Imagination

by [Andre Swygert](#) | Jan 7, 2026

**A classic television commercial offers an offbeat tribute to a culture of innovation.**



Shell Oil aired a commercial in 1997 of a speeding Ferrari F310 seemingly being refueled from an aircraft as a component of its then-current campaign entitled “The Future Is In The Making.” The campaign was developed to emphasize Shell’s obsession with developing innovative solutions to satisfy customer’s current and future fuel needs.

For the commercial Shell leveraged its partnership with Ferrari’s racing team to present a far-fetched solution in response to Ferrari’s desire at the time (and other F1 teams) to use refueling to strategic advantage. Refueling at speed would allow cars to carry less fuel, run faster due to less weight, and eliminate fuel stops. Obviously, safety issues alone would prevent refueling as wildly imagined here (note: refueling has been banned in F1 since 2010). Nevertheless, the association of Shell with innovation was presented to dramatic effect.

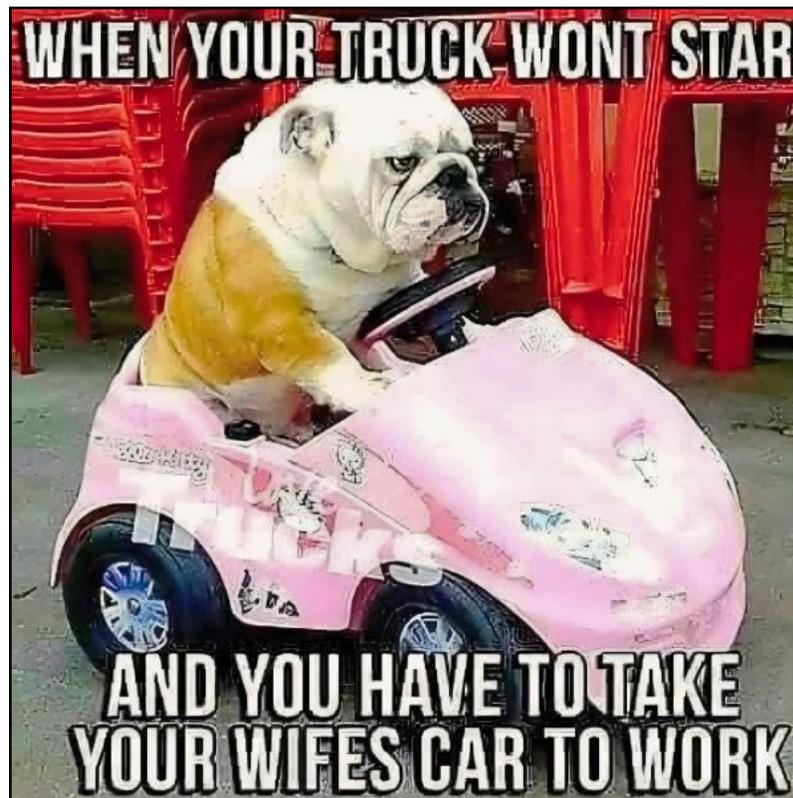
Current audiences may assume that the commercial was made entirely using CGI. However, it was mostly filmed live in the Mojave Desert using a real Ferrari and aircraft driven and piloted by real people. The car is a model F310, a V10-powered racer in Ferrari’s 1996-1997 stable that preceded the more successful F310B. The F310 was also the first Ferrari F1 car to run on Shell fuel since the 312B3 in 1973. Its driver was Luca Badoer, a veteran who won the Formula 3000 title in his first year (1992) before competing in F1 between 1993 and 2009. Additionally, he was later one of the active test drivers for Ferrari from 1998 to 2010.

The other vehicle is a C-123K, a former U.S. Air Force transport plane (serial number 54-0615) carrying registration N456S. Built by Fairchild Aircraft in Hagerstown, MD in the 1950s, the C-123K had a J-85 jet engine on each wing to increase its performance and payload capability. These additions contributed to the type’s extensive use in the Vietnam War to carry troops and cargo into areas that were difficult for other aircraft to operate.

Since their retirement from military service in the early 1980s, C-123s have been popular movie props with appearances in films like *Air America* (1990) and *Con Air* (1997). Movie credits for N456S include *Terminal Velocity* (1994) and *A Man Apart* (2003).

Interestingly, no C-123 was ever used as a refueling aircraft. As a result, the shot in the commercial of the fuel hose connecting from the plane to the Ferrari was achieved through a combination of green-screen special effects and careful choreography of the C-123.

Readers interested in viewing the commercial can click [here](#). As a bonus, click [here](#) to view a video that illustrates the filming of the commercial. 🍷



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**Long Island Thunderbirds**  
**Membership/Renewal Application**

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

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$30.00 (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-Dec 31<sup>st</sup>)

**\*\*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**

# VTCI 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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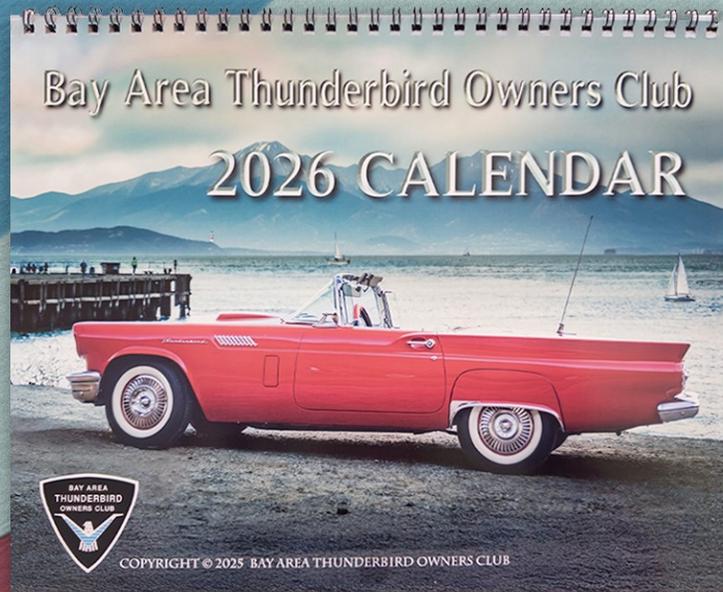
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(Be certain to include your address for delivery)

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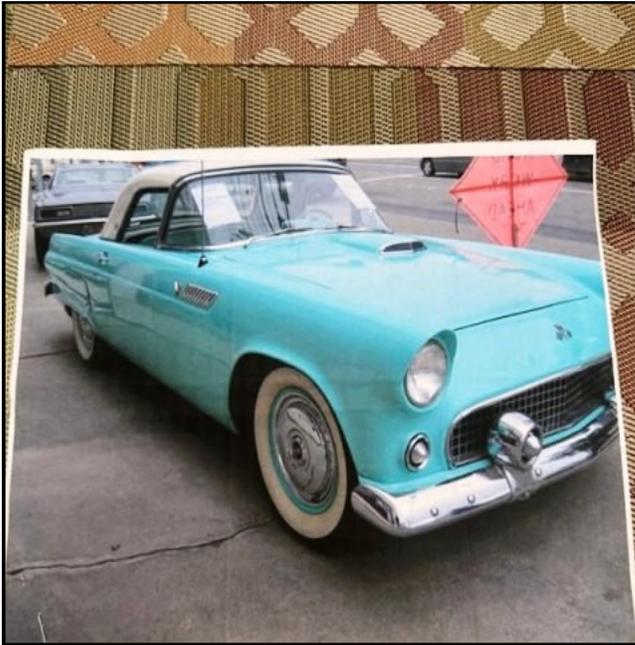
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