



Chapter of VTCI Publication of the LONG ISLAND THUNDERBIRD CLUB Silver Award 202
NOVEMBER 2025



The Al Statton Memorial
Operation Enduring Care
'Drive with Supplies'
Benefit Car Show



Hosted by the Centurion Cruisers Car Club,
and American Legion Post 1244, Greenlawn.
REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

DATE Sunday, November 9, 2025. rain or shine
TIME Starting at 9am until 2pm
WHERE Walt Whitman High School
301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York, 11746

\$20 donation per vehicle

Dash plaques to first 100 vehicles, Awards presented.

We are collecting donations to benefit in-patients and Community
Living Centers at the Northport V.A. Hospital, United Beacon House
shelter and other transition and rehabilitation programs.

ITEMS NEEDED: Men's & women's personal hygiene products including shaving cream, razors,
deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, hand & body lotion, soap, nail care, etc...
Bedding and bath items including socks, gloves, slippers, knit caps, scarves, t-shirts,
new bath towels & washcloths, new twin & full size bedding, etc..

Cash and gift card donations are greatly appreciated too!

Breakfast and lunch available for sale at location by:

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We Support Enduring Care

November 9th

Walt Whitman High School -

Have a Great Thanksgiving

New Board Member

Matthew Gullo

Operation Enduring Care Sunday November 9, 2025

Sunday November 9th @ Walt Whitman High School for Operation Enduring Care: On the front cover of this newsletter is all the information you need to know to attend. We participated in this event last year and the years before. We made a monetary donation to them and we will be doing the same this along with some miscellaneous stuff. You can participate yourself by bringing what they need and money if you like. This is a rain and shine event and hope to see you there.

The Count de Monet

Just to bring everyone up to speed my tenure as El Presidente after some twenty plus years will end the last day in 2026. To make John Bianco feel comfortable we have added his version in our monthly newsletter as the "Count de Monet" He now wears another hat, other than the many hats he wears now. So, from this point forward on our monthly club message you will have Big Bird and The Count de Monet up in the left hand corner

New Member

New Member/Kimberly Strum: I met Kimberly and her Husband David at the Tanner Park Car Show a few weeks back. David just bought her a 2004 Retro Thunderbird and after discussing what the club was about, she decided to join us.

November 8th Annual LITC Board Meeting

Annual Board Meeting Saturday November 8th at the Hauppauge Palace Diner. First pitch is at 9 AM Sharp

Sad News

Some Sad News: A good friend of mine and of our hobby passed away on Friday 17th in Nazareth, Pa. I knew Walt for many years and we ran into each other at many events like the North Jersey Thunderbird Show. And one of my favorite places was the Lehigh Valley Shows in Pa. I may be wrong but he had one of the largest Thunderbird Toy collections in the world. His obit is in the extra pages of this edition of BT.

Cars & Coffee

Saturday October 25th/South Huntington Public Library/Cars & Coffee/10 AM-2PM: Join the Centurion Cruisers Cr Club in the parking lot at the South Huntington Public Library for a day of classic cars and trucks. No entry fee and indoor restrooms available.

2026 Club Calendar

2026 Club Calendar: In next month's issue of Bird Talk is the first pass of our 2026 club calendar. We will again have Breakfast with the Boss on a Saturday in March. And our Pizza Night in June will be RSVP only because of the lack of participation this past June. Our opening in April may change from BK to maybe Wendy's in the same town. We will try and get creative for July and August but it is way too early to address those months.

Building Homes for Heroes:

Building Homes for Heroes: In this issue of Bird Talk BHFH has gifted their 433 mortgage free home to retired US Army Command Sergeant Major Gretchin Evans and her husband, Captain Bob D. Evans in Argyle Texas. Read the article and enjoy the accolades.

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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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Walter Stoeber

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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

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 21st 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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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

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.

	US and Canada
January / February	\$40.00
March / April	\$35.00
May / June	\$30.00
July / August	\$25.00
September / October	\$55.00
November / December	\$50.00

All Other
Countries

\$60.00
\$55.00
\$45.00
\$40.00
\$90.00 includes next year
\$80.00 includes next year



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

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

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

Two 1968 Thunderbirds

Two 1968 Thunderbirds: On Friday September 26th I visited the two Birds and took some pictures and realized that these two cars were toast. The only redeemable value was the interior. I posted it on Facebook the "Glamour Thunderbird" site and did receive some replays but not enough to get crazy. I emailed all my friends in Maryland, Pa, and Jersey to see if there was an interest. The young lady that owns these cars is Mary Skelley of Islip Terrace. I explained to her what I was trying to do. I contacted Mike Reccine in our club who owns a 68 but it's a four door and the interior does not match what he has. Trying to help her but I think she will have to have them junked. I will update all of you in next month's BT.

NSSA Car Show

Sunday September 28 NSSA Car Show in Commack: In the house for LITC Ron Kohlmann, John Karahalas and yours truly. This was a fund raiser for autism and I figure maybe 100 vehicles. None of us won anything but it was a great day to sit and talk cars. All this was run by the Centurian Cruisers car club.

Bayport Aerodrome Boss the Planes

Sunday October 5th Bayport Aerodrome: On this day I decided to go it alone and just hang out with Big Bird and talk to myself. Excellent weather, figure well over (100) plus vehicles. No judging no awards and just talking cars all day. The bad news was the bathrooms were miles away and I only made one trip and left about 12:30. Antique Planes were landing and taking off all day. If you love planes, you missed a great event. These pilots rent their hangers like we rent our garages. Big Man Caves cost was \$25.00 with free lunch, took some pics which are in the extra pages. Just a footnote to this show: A couple of years ago I visited this venue and was hoping we could have Thunderbird Appreciation Day there but that never came to fusion.

Tobay Beach Car Show

Sunday October 5th Tobay Beach Car Show: In perusing thru Facebook on 6th of October I found a picture of Rich Kamins Thunderbird and on Channel 12 news on the same day there was a picture of Roger Stamiles Bird too! I did not attend. Way too many cars and long lines to get in and out but it did not deter these two guys.

Connetquot High School Thunderbird Mascot

Connetquot High School/Thunderbird Mascots: A suggestion was made at last months meeting to contact Connetquot High School whose mascot is the Thunderbird T-Bird. I spoke with the Principal of the High School and explained to him about us and their mascots. He thinks it would be a good idea in 2026 and he will get back to me.

October 15th Meeting

Wednesday October 15th Our Monthly Meeting at the Diner: At the monthly meeting there were only three of us. The "Count", Matthew Gullo and yours truly. The sad part was that I had planned an interesting agenda. I talked about the Vanderbilt Show with only two weeks to go that you have to pre-register. There is an interest from Connetquot High School about an event for next spring in regards to our Thunderbirds. Somebody contacted me by email that they would like to come to one of our meetings and explain how they will convert your gas-powered toy into an EV. Next, Matthew Gullo came with some good ideas for future events and we asked him if he would like to join the board and he accepted. For me, another disappointed with only three of us. Lastly, John Bianco informed me that some of our members were disappointed that there was no Ford show this year ***So, my question to you-- Do you want to have our Ford Show in 2026 in October? Let's see how many of you raise your hand and want to know more. Call me, email me or send me a smoke signal.***

2026 Club Dues

2026 Club Dues: During the first week in December, you will be receiving our annual dues renewal letter electronically from me. Our dues are still \$30.00 and you could also still make a donation to BHFH if you like by adding some gelt to your check.

Dues Footnote: On Friday October 17th I received our first dues check for 2026 from John J. De Pinto and I thank him for being so prompt.

OUR NEXT CLUB FUNCTION & MEETING

Wednesday November 13th

Wednesday November 13th at the Hauppauge Palace Diner: The address is 525 Smithtown by Pass in Hauppauge First pitch is at 7 PM.

Reminder

Reminder: Because of the Holidays in December there is no club meeting

Enjoy your Thanksgiving....

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L.I. THUNDERBIRD CLUB NEXT INDOOR MEETING

DATE : No December Next Meeting Jan 7th

PLACE Hauppauge Palace Diner

TIME : 7:00pm

Directions : See Ad Page 5



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Bayport Aerodrome



Tobay Car Show October 5th

Roger Stamile 1965 Convertible



Rich Kamin 1965 Thunderbird







Building Homes for Heroes, together with its valued partners Hillwood Communities and Highland Homes, proudly presented a mortgage-free home to Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Gretchen Evans and her husband, Captain Bob D. Evans, Chaplain, U.S. Navy (Ret.) in Argyle, Texas, just outside of Dallas. With the support of so many wonderful partners—including Ross Perot Jr., Lowe's, SAIC, Amazon Web Services, and many others—this milestone also marked the 433rd home Building Homes for Heroes has proudly gifted since its inception.

The homecoming event on September 11 was both meaningful and uplifting. While the date carries profound significance marking the 24th anniversary of 911, the ceremony was filled with unity, celebration, and hope. Hundreds of students from Argyle High School joined the occasion, including the Argyle Eagles football team, the Majestics dance team, the Eagles cheerleaders, and the Argyle High School band. Their presence only served to magnify the energy and excitement of the day.

As the ceremony proceeded, two parachute's descended from the sky and landed in the center of the celebration, hand-delivering Gretchen the keys to her new home. The moment capped a truly patriotic and unforgettable tribute to a true American hero and the community that stands beside her.

Gretchen Evans' life and career are defined by service and resilience. Over the course of three decades, she rose through the ranks to command more than 30,000 troops in Afghanistan. Her military service was cut short by a life-changing combat injury, yet she transformed that challenge into a mission of inspiration, traveling the world to share her story of leadership, courage, and perseverance.

Her many accolades include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, and induction into both the U.S. Army Women's Hall of Fame and the U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame. In 2022, she received the Pat Tillman Award for Service at the ESPYs. Beyond her awards and recognition, Gretchen is admired for her warmth, humor, brilliance, and her deep commitment to her fellow service members and to our nation.

On a day of both reflection and celebration, Gretchen and the Argyle community, reminded everyone that even out of difficult times, hope can rise.

Walter Fries Obituary

Walter J. Fries, Jr., 82 of Nazareth, PA, passed away on Friday, October 17, 2025. Born June 4, 1943, in Allentown, PA, he was the son of the late Walter Fries, Sr. and the late Erma (Bortz) Fries. He was the husband of Sandra (Derr) Fries with whom he shared 63 years of marriage. Like an old commercial said, "Meet me at the ACME", they met while working at the Acme Market. Walter was a 1961 Graduate of William Allen High School, Allentown, PA. following high school, he furthered his education and graduated from Bethlehem Business College and later, Wisconsin University with a degree in Banking Administration. Walter first worked for Union Bank and Trust in the audit department. He was Head Auditor for Nazareth Bank & Trust Co. for 45 years until retiring as Sr. Vice President of Operations and Security in 2002. Walter was a member of the Nazareth Rotary Club for over 25 years, and he was honored by being named a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also a dedicated member of the Lehigh Valley Thunderbird Club for over 45 yrs serving as past president, past treasurer, and many other officer positions. Surviving along with his wife Sandra, are 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a granddaughter, a sister, and a nephew. A Memorial service will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday October 24, 2025, at Bartholomew-Schisler Funeral Home, 211 E. Center Street Nazareth, PA 18064. The family will receive friends from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Memorial Park, Allentown, PA. The family requests no flowers because Walter will be laid to rest in the mausoleum. Instead, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to: Tails of Valor paws of honor, 1776 Salem Road, Quakertown, PA. 18951. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.schislerfuneralhomes.com

Our New Co President John Bianco AKA “The Count De Monet”



Message from Co President John Bianco AKA “The Count De Monet”

As Advertising Director I manage the annual billing of our sponsors. It is worth noting R.J. Fregenti Associates, Pat Wilson's, and Bird Nest have been our most reliable supporters for many years.

RJ Fregenti is a Jericho, New York multi-lines Independent Insurance Agency serving families, individuals, and businesses. In fact, they even could provide car insurance for your classic Bird as well as you daily driver. They are a local business, so why not ask them for a quote? Check them out at <https://www.rjfassoc.com/>.

Pat Wilson's Thunderbird Parts offers a whole host of parts for your 1958 to 1966 Thunderbird. You can even send him a picture of your classic Bird and he may post it on his web site. Pretty cool. Check it out on <https://www.wilsontbird.com/>.

Bird Nest has been around for 40 years and has a huge warehouse of new, NOS, and rebuilt parts for your Bird. Their web site is <https://tbirdparts.com/>.

If you have not checked out or taken advantage of the invaluable offerings and services of our supporters, please check them out.

Ciao!

The Count.

Revised Club Logo



Apparently there were some budget cutbacks in Gotham...



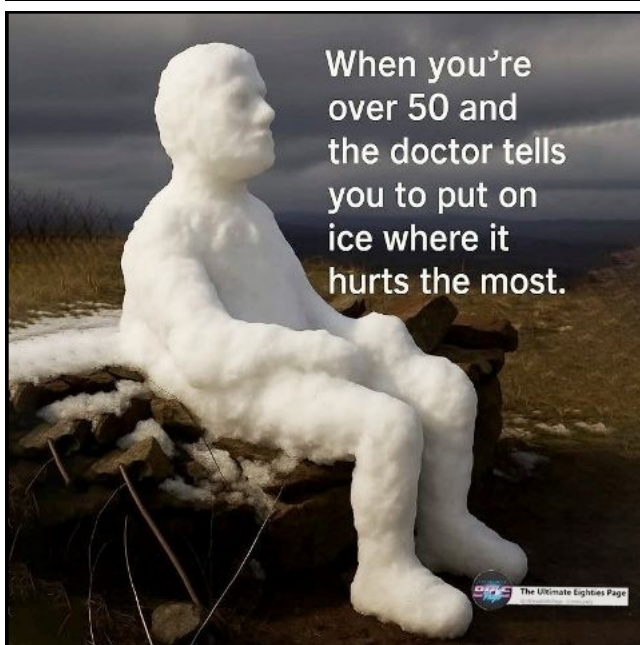
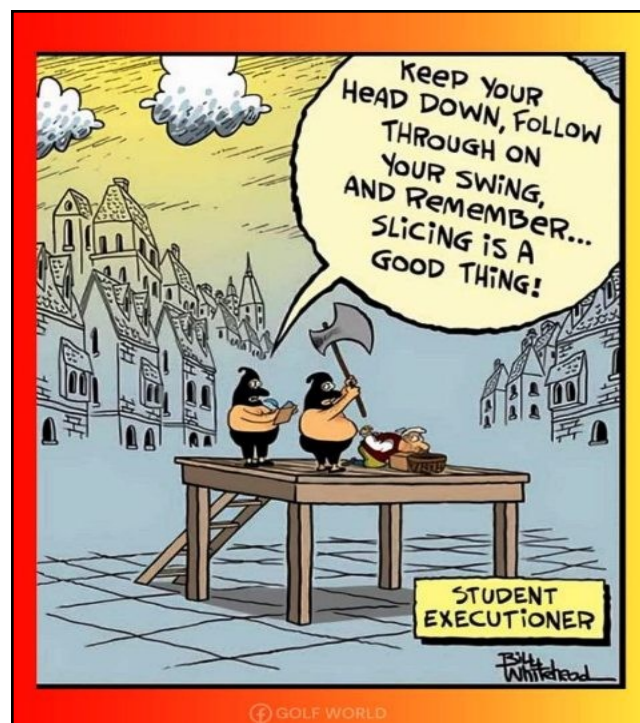
Somewhere in Pittsburgh,
a GPS finally gave up.



Just say got it, Don't ruin it!

Many Won't See It.

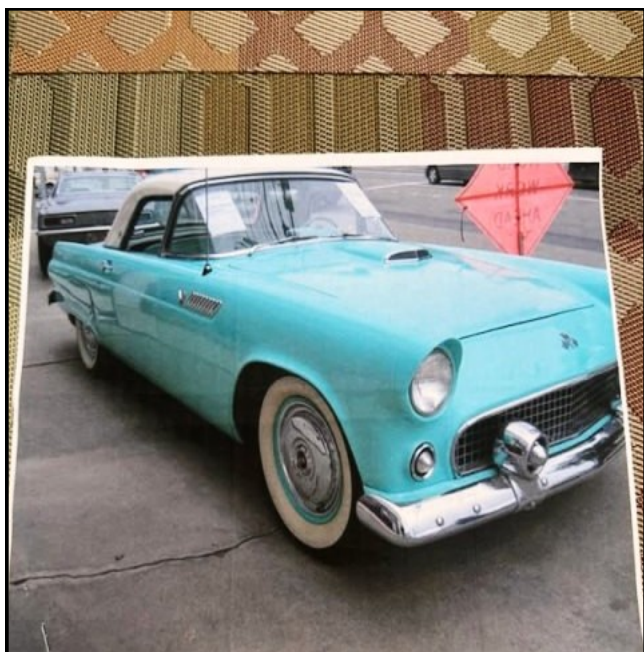




Mary Skelly 1968 Thunderbirds



For Sale 1955 Thunderbird Contact owner Pat Capuro 631 275 4797 Asking 36K



Chrome coil Tach drive

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Water pressure gauge

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Detail and Dyed Interior