

Long Island Thunderbird Club 2026 Survey Results

On January 14, 2026, a survey was emailed to all our members. Given the limitations of using Survey Monkey's free tool, I was limited to asking only 10 questions and was not permitted to add any comment boxes for other suggestions or answers to the questions. The fact that 34% of members answered the survey speaks volumes about the lack of enthusiasm in our club. I do not intend to sound harsh as we appreciate your membership, but as the adage goes: "life is what you make of it". Perhaps some of you thought it was spam email or electronic nonsense, but a separate email reminder was sent about completing the survey and its valid merits.

The survey's summary format below will: state the question; summarize the responses and results; and comment on possible changes or actions we may see in 2027. With that said, below is a summary of the results:

Question 1: What is your primary interest in joining a car club?

Results:

- 44% of you joined to network with other enthusiasts.
- 39% of you joined to participate in car events.

Comments:

- No surprises here.

Question 2: How often would you like the car club to host events?

Results:

- 53% of you would like to meet at an event monthly.
- 41% of you would like to meet at an event quarterly.

Comments:

- Monthly club attendance has been anemic recently. Elliott does a great job sending out reminders and beating the drum to spark interest.
- We all have challenges and limitations in participating each month for whatever reason. Perhaps you work, perhaps the meetings are uninteresting, or perhaps at the end of the day you are spent and prefer not to drive to an evening meet.
- Given the split responses, maybe 2027 meetings will be held every other month. They say: Time apart makes the heart grow fond.

Question 3: What types of activities would you participate in?

Results:

- 75% of you liked the idea of Sunday Brunch.
- 19% preferred a picnic.
- 6% want to go bowling.

Comments:

- I like to eat too. Sunday Brunch would be a one-off event. Reservations at any decent brunch joint would warrant reservations, which implies serious commitments by you.
- Picnics are fun. Again, serious commitments are imperative for reserving park grounds and prepaying for the event are just some of the logistical challenges.
- Someone else besides me likes bowling. Ah, those nights of yore spent at Green Acres Bowling Alley – bowling a few games and blowing quarters playing Defender.
- Bottom line: we will see how 2026 goes as far as turnout to various club events before we have to worry about Yogi the Bear stealing our picnic basket or getting a hernia from bowling.

Question 4: Do you feel the annual dues are a good value for what the club offers?

Results:

- 100% of respondents found the dues to be of good value.

Comments:

- Guess what, our dues of \$30 when compared to other regional car/T-Bird clubs are dirt cheap. We greatly appreciate folks' charitable contributions on top of the dues. Homes for Heroes is our anchor charity. We need to tread lightly with any future increases.

Question 5: Have you been satisfied with the monthly club newsletter Bird Talk?

Results:

- 100% of respondents are satisfied with our club's newsletter Bird Talk.

Comments:

- No surprise here. Art Fleming is the Chief Editor of Bird Talk and does a good job compiling articles, ads, event listings, etc. Kudos to Elliot for conjuring up a good story or providing updates on all thing T-Bird. Also, thanks to you for submitting your stories and pics of your classic. It's really a club effort that makes Bird Talk a Golden Quill Award winner. Thank you!

Questions 6: Would you like to see technical articles occasionally in Bird Talk?

Results:

- 100% of respondents want technical articles published in Bird Talk.

Comments:

- The national clubs incorporate technical or "How to" articles in their publications.
- Paul Rosina is our resident Technical Advisor who has helped many of us with issues or questions with our cars. We all have access to Paul.
- Taking the time to write a technical article has unique challenges. I am technical editor for the VTCL covering 1987 – 1988 Thunderbirds. It's rewarding to do but consumes a fair amount of time.
- Expertise not only varies by generation of T-Bird but also by component, i.e., drivetrain, body, electrical, engine, transmission, etc. Having access to an ASE shop manual is invaluable.
- Bottom line: the club's Board will discuss the matter to determine if we can come up with a solution.

Question 7: Have you been satisfied with club leadership?

Results:

- 72% of respondents were Very Satisfied with leadership.
- 28% of respondent were just Satisfied with leadership.

Comments:

- We strive for 100% full satisfaction at the LITC. But let's face it: "You can't please all the people all of the time." Elliott knows this well and is a challenge any leader faces.

Question 8: Do you plan to attend the November 15th All Thunderbird Car Show at the Vanderbilt?

Results:

- 72% of respondents plan to attend.
- 28% of respondents do not plan to attend.

Comments:

- This is a question where I wanted to have a comment box for folks to state why they would not attend. Again, the free version of Survey Monkey had its limitations.
- We are excited to host an All Thunderbird Show at the Vanderbilt – the first ever! We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Show details are forthcoming over the next few months.

Question 9: What locations would be ideal to hold club meetings?

Results:

- 39% responded for Hauppauge.
- 33% responded for Western Nassau.
- 28% responded for Farmingdale/Melville/ Rt. 110

Comments:

- Most, if not all, monthly club meetings are typically held east of Rt. 110.
- I am guilty of rarely attending monthly meetings: I work in lower Manhattan during the week and find it challenging to drive out east to Hauppauge or Kings Park from western Nassau especially after dealing with the 2/3 train and the LIRR. Yes, we all have our woes.
- A club should try to be all-inclusive. In 2027, you can expect club meetings to be held at different geographical Long Island locations, i.e., Western Nassau, Rt. 110, and yeah, we can keep Hauppauge or some other Suffolk location.
- Perhaps having different locations will make the club more accessible for different folks and will encourage more participation. Or perhaps not. We shall see.

Question 10: What day of the week should monthly club meetings be held?

Results:

- 39% responded Wednesday.
- 22% responded Saturday.
- 17% responded Tuesday.
- 11% responded Monday.

Comments:

- What was interesting, nobody responded for having a club meeting on Fridays. Indeed, we all love our Friday Happy Hours! I get it.
- Inclusivity! We need to mix things up. Saturdays can be tough, perhaps early morning Saturday for some meetings. Yes, we will keep Wednesday too. Maybe some of you want a Taco Tuesday meeting as well (but not at Taco Hell, I mean Bell).

Conclusion: I am not an expert in consumer sentiment and knowing the people's wants. It seems logical from the results we need to try some new things in 2027. I hope Mr. Spock is not offended by my logic. It's your club. There are challenges inherent in our demographic. The Mustang and the Empire Muscle Machines Clubs are a more diverse demographic. I will be at the Breakfast with the Boss meeting on March 7th. I hope we have a significant turnout including folks from various parts of Long Island. We need to hear from you all. Besides, we miss you! See you then.

Ciao!

John Bianco

