# **Thunderbird Owners of New York**

TALES OF A TWO-SEATER

1955's 1956's 1957's Member, Classic Thunderbird Club International – Chapter 49 ~ April 2023 edition

## OFFICERS

President: Stan Matusewicz – 631-231-3156 <u>curver@optonline.net</u>

Vice President: Dennis Benfante– 631-447-3847 <u>tbirdden@optonline.net</u>

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Newsletter Editor: Mar. '23 Arlene Swenson – 631-277-9511 <u>swenson@optonline.net</u>

# **APRIL 2023**

# Monday, April 3, 2023

### 7 p.m. @ BETHPAGE LIBRARY

47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714 516-931-3907

(up-coming meetings: May 1, June 5, July 3)



Dennis Benfante's '57

#### **MY MESSAGE:**

#### Hello Thunderbirders!

Spring is in the air - take a good whiff.

The birds are beginning to sing. Spring flowers poking out of the dirt....more hours of daylight with sunlight streaming through the windows.

The weather seems just perfect. Now that Spring has arrived, I see that April is an eventful month. Right off the bat, there's the prankster's holiday, April Fools' Day. Then, of course, there's our social religious gatherings with family, foods and prayer - Passover and Easter......followed by quite a showing of car shows every weekend which includes our club Dust-Off Brunch.

Then, if it weren't enough, there's Tax Day, your A/C-Spring-Check-Up-Day, and don't forget Auto Inspections! Lastly, there's also the major environmental event known as Earth Day,

There you have it for this month... So, let's shake off the cold and spring to life. I attempted walking outside on the few mild and sunny days in March knowing that there will be even more warm and sunny days ahead in April to continue more walking.

We're getting anxious to be outdoors fresh air, warmer weather and blooming flowers, are the prefix to the spring start-up of classic cars!

I've started by driving around the neighborhood. It's a bright, warm, beautiful day!

Yes, Car Shows and Car Cruises will soon begin. This newsletter lists the start of them all! What's not to love about Spring? ....Arlene



# SECRETARIES REPORT/MESSAGE MARCH 2023 T.O.N..Y. MEETING NOTES

Our meeting began with 15 members present in the Bethpage Library auditorium . At 7:15 P.M. our President, **Stan Matusewicz** called it to order with the Pledge of Allegiance as usual.

#### OLD NEWS

Starting off, there was a discussion about ordering new club jackets and problems with the original stitching art work. That can be resolved in the future but we will need to know how many members at this time are really interested in buying a jacket. (See below).

Our treasurer, **Jim Mezey**, reported we now have \$3,619.00 in the bank. Stan brought up the President's Council All Car Clubs meeting held in February where all the dates for car shows in 2023 are established so there are not too many shows on the same date throughout the year. The

final calendar will come out soon from Bill Carberry. **Arlene Swenson** (our Editor) will forward the list to the members A.S.A.P. By the way, we need someone to take over for Arlene who's been editor for 50 years.

By the time you read this, you'll know that one of our oldest club members, **John Brzoza**, has passed away.

Personally, I'll always picture John with his white Ford Fairlane. May he rest in peace.

#### NEW BUSINESS

As usual at this time of year, we discussed finding a place to have our yearly brunch. Also, please keep in mind the club will cover some of the costs. <u>See below what we've come up with.</u>

#### END OF MEETING TECHNICAL SESSION

Once again **Allen Leon** pulled out a couple of "Tech" items out of his magic bag of info. First he discussed the use of "Di-electric" grease, pointing out its uses etc. Next up, a special tool for truing wire wheels on our birds used to balance wheels from the rim. Very interesting ! And lastly, a discussion on windshields and cleaners/ polishes that are best for the windshields. Thank you Allen !

Meeting closed as usual with **Steve Murray** winning the 50/50, \$33.00 <u>IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BUYING A CLUB JACKET</u> Please contact **JIM MEZEY** - **516-315-8608** 

## \*NOTE !!

Since no one came up with a reasonable priced restaurant for our brunch, and so many of the members enjoyed the breakfast get together we had last year at that Hauppauge Palace diner:...

... OUR YEARLY <mark>DUST-OFF WILL BE HELD AT THE HAUPPAUGE PALACE DINER ON APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> AT 10:00 A.M.</mark>

Located at the corner of Route 111 and Route 347 (525 Smithtown by-pass) 631-724-1775

Please contact our treasurer, JIM MEZEY, 516-315-8608 no later than MARCH 30TH if you wish to attend.

Keep in mind, you can order whatever you want from their menu and if we have more than 15 people sign up, we will have our own dining room. Plus, there's plenty of room for parking our birds. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL TURN OUT!

JOHN CATTONAR CLUB SECRETARY THUNDERBIRD OWNERS OF NEW YO

# CATTONAR'S CORNER

#### WHEN A THUNDERBIRD HAS BEEN SITTING A VERY LONG TIME

This will only pertain to some members that have stored their car for a very long period of time or they just purchased a bird that's been sitting for a long time.

- 1. Make sure you have a good fire extinguisher handy. Also, a camera and pencil and paper
- 2. Look over the car for frayed wires, leaks, soft hoses, cracked belts etc., starting in the engine compartment then under the dash, next the trunk and then the bottom of the car. This when you write up your check list on what needs to be done.
- 3. Before even attempting to start the engine, remove all spark plugs, mark the plug wires with masking tape, right bank 1, 2 3 etc.
- 4. Spray each cylinder through the spark plug holes with a light lubricant like Marvel Mystery Oil. It's recommended that you let the engine sit a day.
- 5. Now, try turning the engine <u>by hand.</u> Once it turns smoothly, try cranking the engine a few turns only, using the starter.
- 6. You should have a new battery to hook up. (Wire brush the cable ends that go on to the battery and solenoid or buy new wires)
- 7. replace the spark plugs
- 8. Drain the old oil, change the filter and add new oil .
- 9. Our T-Birds have an inline fuel filter bowl which gives you visibility as to if you are getting gas. Before trying to use the old gas in the fuel tank, it's recommended you drain <u>all</u> the gas out of the tank. There is a drain on the tank bottom. Check the gas for rust or sediment. Fill up with only a couple of gallons of fresh gas. (Just in case you have to change the tank). You can now pour some gas into the carb and close the choke butterflies and try starting the engine. Check the glass bowl for gas. If gas starts showing up, the fuel pump is working. If no gas, replace the fuel pump. If you are getting gas, but the car runs terrible, you will probably have to rebuild/ replace the carburetor.
- 10. See that you are getting spark to the distributor by opening /closing the points
- 11. Now is the time to run the engine and check the gauges, for leaks, noises, overheating etc.
- 12. Next, check <u>all 4 brakes</u>, especially the brake pistons. If they all look good: then drain and replace the brake fluid. I recommend DOT 5 silicone fluid. Also, repack the grease in the front wheel bearings and inspect them. Don't forget to back the nut off slightly and install a new cotter pin.
- 13. If the tires are older then 12 to 15 years, you're taking a chance.
- 14. When the car is drive able, take it to a transmission shop for a trans fluid change (Type F only)
- 15. Taking the time to go over the car right the first time will save you a lot of grieve later on when you hit the road.

#### Happy T-Birding

John Cattonar T.O.N.Y. CLUB SECRETARY



# MEMBER NEWS -

Expressions of Sympathy from our Thunderbird club goes to Carol Brzoza and her extended family, on the recent death of her husband John, on March 7<sup>th</sup>. John was 82 years old and had been experiencing many serious health issues. Carol. you're in our thoughts and prayers - We are so sorry for your loss. May your heart and soul find peace and comfort. "To honor and remember....Each soul leaves a legacy of love......each memory a bridge to comfort and connect one heart to another forever."

### FEATURE-CAR-OF-THE-MONTH - We're still looking for Member's cars to feature in our

newsletter section: 'Feature Car of the Month' series...... We know you have a story to tell, so share it with us, on how your Thunderbird made it into your garage!

**CLUB WEB-SITE:** Web-Site URL: <u>https://thunderbirdownersofnewyork.godaddysites.com/</u> ...If you have some content that you would like to share on the web site, or any feed-back about the site. please send it to Sal Perrotta: <u>salperrotta1951@gmail.com</u>

• T.O.N.Y. and the L.I.T.C. are planning our 17<sup>th</sup> annual Thunderbird and All-Ford Car Show at Kings Park, NY again on, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Mark your calendar! Fill out flyer in this newsletter & mail to Dennis.

# DATES OF INTEREST:



Saturday, April 1 – April Fools Day Sunday, April 2 – CAR SHOW – North Hempstead Beach Park - see flyer in this newsletter Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> – Passover Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 16<sup>th</sup> – New York International Auto Show, Javits Center, 429 11th Avenue | New York, NY 10001 - \$21 - <u>https://www.autoshowny.com/</u> Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday, April 9 – Old Car Easter Parade, Garden City, NY –actual parade: 1 to 3 pm – 10 am line up Saturday, April 15 – Galaxy Club cruise from Bethpage to Calverton - 9 am see flyer in this newsletter Sunday, April 16 – Thunderbird Club Dust-Off - Brunch - @ Hauppague Palace Diner. 10 a.m. contact jim mezey Sunday, April 16 – CAR SHOW - FLOWERFIELD Fairgrounds, St. James (see Apr. 2 for more info) Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day - Earth Day <u>http://www.earthday.org/</u> is an annual day on which events are held worldwide to increase awareness and appreciation of the Earth's natural environment. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth Day

Sunday, April 23 – car shows – cars and guitars, Commack; Manorville

Sunday, April 30, CAR SHOWS - Tobay Beach; Williston Park; Mastic Beach; & Brentwood

• See all flyers below



# CAR SHOWS ------ starting: Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> -





### Sunday, April 9, 2023: EASTER VINTAGE CAR PARADE

The **Garden City Chamber of Commerce** will be holding its annual Easter Vintage Car Parade on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Attached is this years <u>Car Registration Form</u> and <u>Instruction Form</u>. Registration forms must be completed and **returned by Wednesday, April 5.** 

#### ALL AUTHENTIC OLD MOTORCARS (1918-1998) ONLY - NO RAIN DATE/FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Each Car <u>\$15</u> Year/Make: Year/Make:		
□ Three or more <u>(\$12 each)</u> Total # Total \$		
Year/Make: Year/Make: Year/Make: Year/Make: Year/Make:		
SPECIAL NOTE: Registration on the day of the Event		ONLY
Payment (Checks payable to GARDEN CITY CHAMBE		
Check enclosed      Credit Card (Minimum charge \$20) Ci	rcle below and add	account number and expiration date
MasterCard VISA AmEx (Billing address must be filled	l in below	
Credit Card #	Exp:	Sec. Code:
Name:		
Company/Car Club		
Address:		
City/State/Zip Code		
Telephone #		
E-Mail address:		
Please complete and return by Wednesday, Ap	r <b>il 5, 2023</b>	
MAIL to: Garden City Chamber of Commerce, 230 Sevent	h Street, Garden Ci	ity, NY 11530
REGISTER ONLINE: www.gardencitychamber.org		
QUESTIONS: Call Garden City Chamber of Commerce, (516	5) 746-772 <b>4</b>	

NO Distribution of any items (i.e tossing of candy) per insurance guidelines. By participating in the parade you expressly agree to these terms and any violation may make you personally liable





# THE EMPIRE GALAXIE CLUB'S ANNUAL SPRING POKER RUN & CRUISE From Old Bethpage to Calverton

THE EAST COAST'S LONGEST CAR CRUISE!!!! There will be a 50/50 Cash Raffle & on route Poker Run offered

# SATURDAY, April 15th 2023

Starting Point: American Armored Museum-Old Bethpage Meeting Time : 9AM Cruising Time: 10AM

Rain Date APRIL 16th

Take your Regular Car in case of Poor Weather This is a No-Fee Event Open to ALL Clubs and Gear Heads

Just bring your classic, vintage, muscle car, hot rod or retro Meet up with old friends, meet new friends, dust off your prized possession!! There will be a 50/50 cash raffle and Poker Run with prizes offered... You can try your luck, just enjoy a nice spring day, or both...

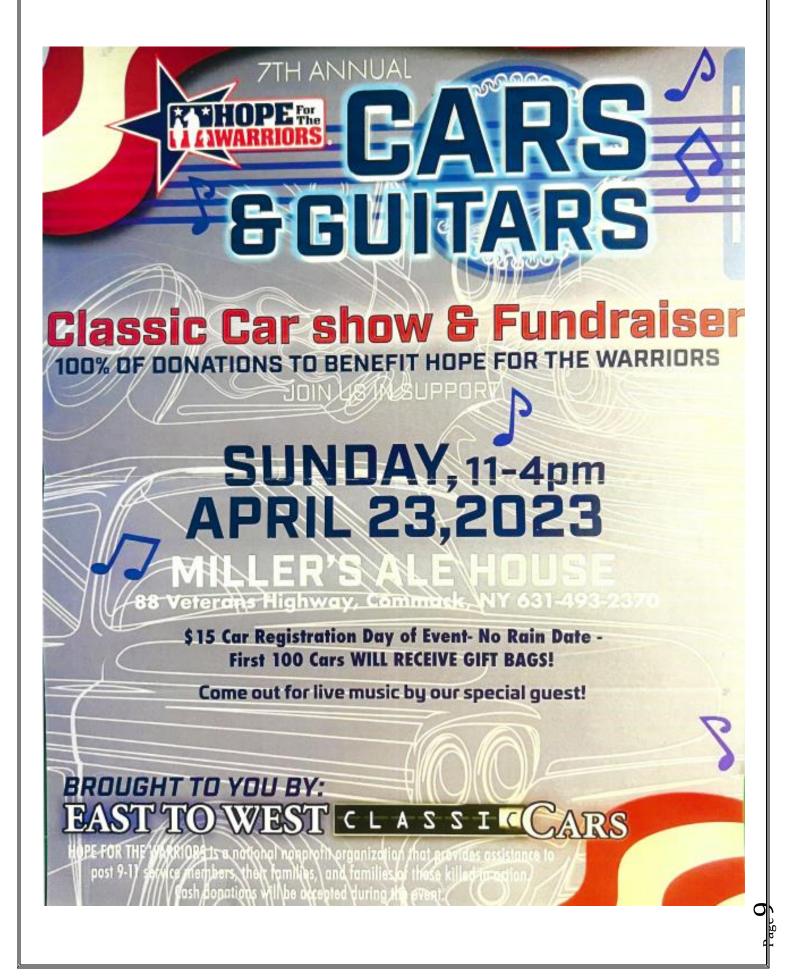
> Start-American Armored Museum- Old Bethpage Stops- Along the Route to - Calverton All Stop locations announced day of the Event for the Poker Run End- J&R Restaurant Calverton 631-727-7218 50/50 and Poker Run Winners will be determined there. The Empire will be enjoying lunch at J&R Restaurant , Join Us!!!

> > More details available www.empiregalaxies.com

more information Contact: Dennis @ (347)385-3370 or Bill @ (516) 860-9309 e-mail: www.empiregalaxies.com



For



	The Jabulous 50s & 60s Nostalgia Car Club Proudly Presents Our Annual Judged CAR SHOW Benefitting: Ronald McDonald House Charities Judy's Run Stroke Awareness
S	UN. APR. 23, 2023 9am-3pm
1	50-50 Raffles Vendors <b>Custom Cut</b> Air <b>Fresheners</b> <b>OR / ERSON AVE., MANORVILLE</b>
1	ALL ATTENDEES MUST AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:
and v I'm ce	e to hold harmless, The Fabulous 50s & 60s Nostalgia Car Club, the Maples, any and all members olunteers for any damages occurring to my vehicles or persons while attending this event, artifying that I have current auto insurance on the vehicle being registered and/or entered into artifying that I have current auto insurance on the vehicle being registered and/or entered into artifying that I understand and agree that my Children's behavior is my complete responsibility.
Se	nd \$15.00 Check with this filled out and signed Form before April 16th to: ి
Fa	bulous 50s & 60s Nostalgia Car Club
	1 Shinnecock Avenue
<u> </u>	stic, NY 11950
63	1-463-4983
Ye	ar and Make:
47-	int Name: •
	nature: Date:
6	
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9 to 3 pm - \$15 pre-regis; \$20 day of show. \$5 spectators - over 140 trophy classes - all you can eat BBQ available. The Maples, 10 Ryerson Avenue, Manorville, NY - for more Information, Contact: Frank @ 631-402-2796, Dan @ 631 672-6182 or Arthur @ 631-463-4983

Super Super			
SUPERVISOR'S TOB	AY BEACH CLAS	SIC · SPRING 202	<u>SUNDAY,</u> A PRIE 30 2023
	r Sh	<b>OW</b> and	11:00AM-4:00PM TOBAY BEACH
			SHOW GATES OPEN AT 8:00AM • RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 7, 202
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2023 SPRING CLASSIC at TOBAY Beach – NY Carcruisefinder.com

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# LONG ISLAND MOTOR PARKWAY MEMORIES CLASSIC CAR SHOW-FAMILY DAY

AND SWAP MEET



Williston Post 144—American Legion

730 Willis Avenue



Williston Park, New York 11596

Sunday April 30, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Show Information: Rob 631-875-7733

Rain or Shine - No Rain Date!





Antique, Vintage Cars, Special Interest, Stock, Muscle Cars, Hot Rods, Unique Vehicles, Trucks, Motorcycles and Modified Cars

Donation: Adults: \$5.00, Children under 12, FREE

Show car and passengers: \$10.00 (includes free flea market space)

Vendors: \$10.00

The first 100 cars will receive a dash plaque

EACH VEHICLE MUST HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER!

There is no Pre-Registration - Come meet new friends!

Commercial Vendors Welcome: \$10.00 for a 10' X 20' Space

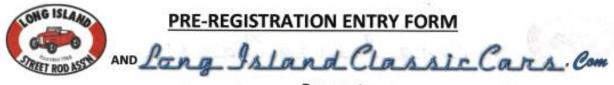


# All American Muscle Welcome

DJ | Food Truck All proceeds from the car show will be donated to Sachem East Football Club.



MORICHES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO PRESENTS KIDS' CHOICE **1st Annual** SUNDAY, AT THE WILLIAM FLOYD HIGH SCHOOL 240 MASTIC BEACH ROAD, MASTIC BEACH APRIL 30TH All proceeds go to the Moriches Elementary School. \*Cars arrive 9:00 - 9:30am. \$10 minimum donation per car. \*Spectators are FREE and may enter at 10:00am. Student judges award trophies at 11:30am. BACON YOU CRAZY food truck will be on site with breakfast sandwiches available for purchase . **Questions Please Email:** MorichesElementaryPTOBoard@gmail.com



Present:

# CLASSIC MOPAR JUDGED CAR SHOW!!

"Show Within-A-Show" as part of the LISRA Spring Car Show Swap Meet

Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Suffolk Community College, Brentwood, NY Rain date is Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please fill out all the fields below and email this pre-reg form to: <u>emaillist@liclassiccars.com</u> OR U.S. mail to Long Island Classic Cars PO Box 239 Shoreham, NY 11786 OR register online: <u>www.liclassiccars.com</u> Flashing link at the center of the top of the page.

- Vehicles will only be judged in the show if pre-registered by Sunday, April 23rd.
- You can still bring your car but there is NO DAY OF SHOW registering for judging.

No exceptions.

- · You are not required to submit payment with your pre-registration.
- You will make your payment upon entering the show field grounds and giving your name to the attendant at the gate.
  - Car show entry fee is only \$20 (Vehicle & driver. Passengers are \$10 extra each)
  - You will receive an email reply that your pre-reg was received and entered, along with
    your judging sheet. <u>Please print the judging sheet out and bring it with you to the show.</u>
- Gate opens at 8AM, please be on the show field with your car prior to 10AM start of judging.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY or you may not receive our reply if your email cannot be read. [NOTE: If you have AOL or Yahoo and do not receive our email response - check your spam folder.]

NAME				
TOWN		1200 (1424)	-3 50.0E	
PHONE			and the second	
EMAIL				 
YEAR				
MAKE		and Section		
MODEL				
CLASS #	6			

Call Pete from Long Island Classic Cars for more information. 516-456-4014 <u>www.liclassiccars.com</u> Check our webpage and <u>follow us on Instagram and Facebook</u>.

## **OUT OF TOWN CAR SHOWS:**

April 13<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023: AACA Southeastern Spring Meet at Charlotte, NC hosted by Hornet's Nest Region. <u>http://www.charlotte-autofair.com/</u> April 19 -23, 2013, Carlisle, PA. Spring Carlisle Flea Market & Spring Auto Auction at the Carlisle Fairgrounds Email: <u>info@carlisleevents.com</u> or <u>www.carlisleevents.com</u>

# **CTCI SANCTIONED EVENTS:**

# **2023 Regional Concours Convention - FLORIDA**

October 24th to 29th -- The Villages

A Pre-Registration form is available on the CTCI Website home page – www.ctci.org
 ...see more in Early Bird Magazine, p. 64

Join C.T.C.I. <u>www.ctci.org</u> click on 'Membership'; or go here: <u>CTCI-2021-Membership-Application-V1-1.pdf</u>

**CRUISE NIGHTS:** (email the editor with any corrections and/or additions - thank you!)

#### SUNDAY

- Morning CRUISE 7AM TO NOON @ Bay Shore OBI & Captree State Park
- Morning Cruise 8 am to 11 am Manhasset Macy's Dept. Store, Northern Boulevard
- Morning cruise 9 to noon **Oceanside** Oceanside RR Station
- 8 am on...**Commack** Corners Shopping Center Old Macy's parking lot, 6500 Jericho Tpke.

#### MONDAY:

Mattituck – North Fork Roadhouse 9095 Sound Ave. – 5 to 10 pm Manorville – The Maples Bar & Grill, 10 Ryerson Ave. 5 to 9 pm

#### **TUESDAY:**

**Patchogue** – Our Lady of Mount Carmel R.C. Church - 5 to 9pm - 495 N Ocean Ave, Patchogue, NY 11772 **Franklin Square** - 6 to 10 pm Dogwood Shopping Center – 696 Dogwood Avenue

WEDNESDAY: Wading River – Shoppes at East Wind, 5768 NY-25A – 5:30 to 8:30 pm

#### THURSDAY:

Miller Place – Applebee's Shopping Center, 355 NY-25A – 5 to 9 pm
Oceanside – Oceanside Plaza Shopping Center, Long Beach Rd – 5 to 10 pm
Jericho – Milleridge Inn - 5 to 10 pm
Commack – Kings Park Plaza – 5 to 10 pm
Oakdale – Wendy's Shopping Center, Montauk Highway – 5 to 10 pm
Westbury - Shopper's Parking Field #4, Madison Street Behind Rite Aid (east of Post Ave. 5 pm

FRIDAY:

Hampton Bays – Meschutt Beach Hut, Canal Road – 5 to 10 pm Southold – American Legion Hall, 51655 Main St. – 5:30 to 10 pm Bellmore – Train Station \$3 – 6 to 11 pm

SATURDAY – Islip, Montauk Highway – between Town Hall & O-Co-Nee Diner – 3 p.m. 'til dark

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

John Zengel – 1<sup>st</sup> Lorraine Dechert – 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Kazura – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ralph Guigliano - 9<sup>th</sup> Carole Foster 7<sup>th</sup> Marge Scomello – 10<sup>th</sup> Pete Cochrane – 12<sup>th</sup> Pam Ogno – 13<sup>th</sup> Fran Cattonar – 17<sup>th</sup> Steve Murray 26<sup>th</sup> Stan Matusewicz -27<sup>th</sup>



### WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

- MY CLASSIC CAR: <u>http://www.myclassiccar.com/</u> look up old episodes......
- SPEED CHANNEL SCHEDULE: <u>http://www.speedtv.com/schedule/</u> Motor Sport coverage and more
- Check out theoldmotor.com Informative Vintage Automobile Internet Magazine

"Money may not buy happiness, but I'd rather cry in a Thunderbird, than on a bus." Francoise Sagan





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1955, 1956, 1957 BUY/SELL/TRADE 5 Judith Drive, Greenlawn, NY 11740 Long Island's Largest T-Bird Parts Dealer ROBERT CERASO 631-757-9476 email: legendblrdbob@hotmail.com

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157 West Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787 <u>www.smithtownautobody.com</u> - servicing community for over 30 years Free Estimates, 24 Hr. Towing, collision repairs, refinish & restoration and more! Ed Martinez – 631-265-0110 <u>smithtownab@optonline.net</u>

**Happy T-Birding** 

Arlene Swenson

<u>swenson@optonline.net</u> 631-277-9511 MARCH, 22, 2023

start your engines!





