

Thunderbird Owners of New York

1955's 1956's 1957's

Member, Classic Thunderbird Club International – Chapter 49 – Aug. 2023 edition

TALES OF A TWO-SEATER

clubs.hemmings.com/tony/

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AUGUST 2023

NEXT Meeting:

Monday, August 7, 2023

**7 p.m. @ BURGER KING
BAY SHORE, NY 11706**

(up-coming events: Sept. 9; Oct 1)



"Our national flower is the concrete cloverleaf". Lewis Mumford

MY MESSAGE: Arlene Swenson

As you know, our Thunderbird's club meetings are held outside during the summer. Our July evening meeting was held at Burger King in Bay Shore, NY. Amazingly, weather was comfortable, therefore, we had a good turnout! Even I attended! It was good to see 'old' faces!let's see them and more again for August 7th at 7 o'clock! - earlier, if you indulge in a fast-food dinner!

...Looked like the people living at **Brightview Senior Living** facility in Sayville, enjoyed seeing our classic cars! They hosted an event on July 15th for their residents and invited us! Our members in attendance were **Steve & Linda Katsur, Bob & Katherine Groen, Bob Ceraso, John Cattonar, Stan & Mindy Matuszewicz, Faith & Tony Cardone, and Pat Scomello**. See the report below, for what was a memorable day!

Sayville Annual **Summerfest** (with our own – **Stan Matuszewicy** who is totally involved) will be enjoyed by many car club enthusiasts on Sunday, August 6. Come with reports on this great event, the next day to our meeting!

Saturday, August 26th at 10 a.m. is another club **breakfast** get-together, at the Hauppague Palace Diner, <https://www.hpdiner.com/> organized again by **John Cattonar**. **Thank you John!** . Since food is involved, I know we'll get a nice turnout! R.S.V.P. to **Jim Mezey** jimmez@aol.com or **John Cattonar** cattbird@hotmail.com if you plan to attend ...and how many.

Our Fall **51st Mini-Concours and Picnic**, usually held at Bethpage State Park, will be held this year at Belmont Lake State Park, in Babylon <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/88/details.aspx> , on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Mark your calendar. The idea of food trucks, suggested by **Roberta Signoriello** and **Allen Leon**, is out of the question at this time, as it requires a minimum of 70 and/or 50 people attending. Thank you **Roberta** and **Allen** on your research for this event! So, we will be bringing our own foods again, as in the past. Do we want to eliminate grilling this year? ...or should each member bring his own food? (we're older and need 'easy' – Ha) ...more discussion at the August meeting.

Dennis Benfante is looking for member sign-ups for our October 1st **car show** – together with the Long Island Thunderbird Club. Did you send in your registration form? A blank form is on the last page of this newsletter.

Also, we should begin discussing a venue for our club's January 2024 party! -our **holiday dinner-dance**....if you have ideas, bring it up at the next meeting, so we can lock in a restaurant & date to our liking. (usually a Sunday afternoon – perhaps January 7th) One suggestion so far, from **Faith & Tony Cardone**, is Villa Olivetti, 645 Middle Country Road – Rt. 25, St. James, NY 11780 - villaolivetti.com Party Packages For Parties of 20 Or More. \$ 27.95 -

- This restaurant is also another great place for our club to enjoy BREAKFAST! Let's try this place next time! DISCUSS AT MEETING.

If you attend some classic car events, please allow time to **take some photos** and send them along to this editor for placement into our club newsletter. Thank you!

Stay cool! ...see you soon at an event or on the road! Arlene



CLUB WEB-SITE: <https://thunderbirdownersofnewyork.godaddysites.com/> ... questions? Contact: Sal Perrotta: salperrotta1951@gmail.com



"You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said "Parking Fine." Tommy Cooper

SECRETARIES REPORT/MESSAGE



THUNDERBIRD OWNERS of NEW YORK JULY 2023 MEETING NOTES
PREPARED BY: **JOHN CATTONAR**, CLUB SECRETARY

With the weather finally nice enough to sit outside, our club meeting for July was held @ the Burger King in Bay Shore with 20 members in attendance. Included was a guest appearance by **Arlene Swenson** our phantom Editor. I reported that we have \$3,097.50 in the treasury. Our treasurer **Jim Mezey** was not present.

An old member, **Bill Malyakas**, showed up and renewed his membership. Welcome back!

OLD BUSINESS

Dennis Benfante once again brought up the fact that only 8 people have pre-registered for the upcoming Ford Show in October. We also discussed having separate trophies for just our 2 seaters, (since most everyone disliked the license plates that will be handed out instead of trophies), We would give the winners trophies at our next club meeting.

Dennis also reminded everyone about showing off our cars to the residents of the Sunrise Senior Living located in Sayville this coming Saturday.

By the time you read this, this event will already have happened.

Our President, **Stan Matusewicz**, spoke a little bit about the member's cars he's been working on and the long wait times on some parts.

NEW BUSINESS

I suggested that we once again have "A Breakfast with the Birds" @ the Hauppauge Diner in August. The members picked **August 26th at 10 a.m.** That's a SATURDAY. Please let **Jim Mezey** know if you plan on attending, by August 21st.

Next, for a change to where we normally hold our yearly picnic, **Allen Leon** discussed his efforts in securing a pavilion in Belmont State Park and this year having a food truck paid for by the club and a small donation by those attending. **Roberta Signoriello** also said she would talk to someone she knows who has such a truck and will tie in with Allen. In our August meeting we will try to firm up what's up with our club picnic. Try to attend.

Wrapping up the meeting, **Allen Leon** discussed battery chargers and the make-up of the 3 different batteries available for our cars. The meeting closed at 8:05 P.M. with **Sal Perrotta** winning the 50/50, \$37.00

CTCI SANCTIONED EVENTS

October 24 to 29, 2023 Regional Concours & Touring Convention - CTCI Southeast Region 4 - The Villages, FL
See all information in the May-June 2023 Early Bird magazine – pages 10 -16

Register online: [2023 CONVENTION REGISTRATION](https://www.ctci.org) www.ctci.org

The Central Florida Classic Thunderbird Club is now centrally located in The Villages, and welcomes all Thunderbirds to come and enjoy "Florida's Friendliest Home Town" at the Brownwood Hotel, Spa and Convention Center.

Entertainment events planned include:

- Guided Trolley tours of The Villages' extensive campus-experience it all
- Free, different and live entertainment every night on all three town squares
- Cruise the town squares nightly in your Thunderbird; meet the Villagers
- Return to the 50's party with The Villages top rock & roll group
- Welcome Dinner at Wolfgang Puck's fabulous restaurant

Other Events:

- Concours Judges training and Judging



- Driving tour to National Parts Depot warehouse with 200 + classic car collection, some never registered
- Driving Tour to Don Garlit's Museum of Drag Racing and Early Ford Collection
- Coach Tour to Mount Dora – Street of Dreams, Dora Canal boat tour, restaurants, and shopping
- Coach Tour to Orlando – Dezerland Park – Cars of the Stars & International auto collections

Hotel Reservations can be made now at the Brownwood Hotel

Group Direct Booking Link – No login/Attendee Code needed:

Reservation link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110411?groupID=3721196>

or

Guests can call the hotel at 352.626.1246, **press 1 for reservations**

MEMBER REPORTS

REPORT ON VISIT TO BRIGHTVIEW – SAYVILLE

Members from our club, the Long Island Thunderbird Club and some other classic cars, attended a Welcome Breakfast and Barbeque for the residents of Brightview Senior Living Facility in Sayville, NY on Saturday, July 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our club members were invited by the Executive Director, Diane Ziems, who is also our club member, **Faith Cardone's** niece - to attend this event at the three year old senior living facility in Sayville, to show off our classic cars to the residents. The chef from Brightview cooked all the food – delicious and impressive, said all! And, if you were too warm, you were invited inside to cool down in the lovely air conditioned dining room .

It was a warm summer day - perfect weather said **Steve Katsur**, and **Bob Ceraso** said: "Service & Hospitality was wonderful...the breakfast and BBQ lunch, EVEN BETTER".

Pat Scomello commented: "There were about 15 cars that made the show - almost all Tbirds. The residents were excited to see our classic cars and had plenty of questions. Many wanted to take pictures either in the cars or at least next to them.

Brightview offered a continental breakfast and a BBQ lunch. The Staff was incredibly kind and attentive to us and their residents. All in all we had a great experience and would surely do it again. A special thanks to Judy and Gail, who greeted the clubs in the special marked off area, for having the event and having such great food."

Thank you! Brightview! ...and thank you very much, to **Dennis Benfante** who had organized this event with Brightview for our club members who were bringing their cars!

Address: 445 Broadway, Sayville, NY 11782 631-546-0302

<https://www.brightviewseniorliving.com/find-a-community/brightview-sayville>

...Brightview photos sent to Pat Scomello:





“Whenever a bird does ‘that mess’ on my car, I sit on my front porch and eat a plate of scrambled eggs, just to let them know what I’m capable of!”





“The elderly don’t drive that badly; they’re just the only ones with time to do the speed limit”. ~Jason Love



Thank you, we had a great time!



At the end of the day, ice pops were offered to anyone who wanted one!
THANK YOU, BRIGHTVIEW, for your kind hospitality to our car club!

AUGUST CAR SHOWS_

August

6th	Sunday	Big Rig & Antique Truck Show by ATHS at 5951 Sound Ave	Riverhead	None	631-339-3065
6th	Sunday	Car Show for Stroke Awareness by Fab 50's & 60's @ Historical Society	Smithtown	8/13/2023	631-402-2798
13th	Sunday	Car Show with vendors by Fungawee Car Club at West Hampton Beach Brewery	None	None	631-873-6068
20th	Sunday	18th Rocket Rally Car Show by East End Olds @ The Maples	Manorville	8/27/2023	631-312-3699
20th	Sunday	Car Show / Summer Festival for the whole family 980 Hawkins Ave	Lake Grove	None	LakeGroveNY.gov
27th	Sunday	Pontiac Only Car Show by Pontiac & GTO Club @ Garage Eatery	Islandia	None	917-208-7864
27th	Sunday	Car Show by @ Fab 50's & 60's Nostalgia Car Club @Heckscher Park	Huntington	None	631-402-2798

UP-DATE ON TONY AND FAITH CARDONE'S '57 THUNDERBIRD

This beautiful classic recently moved from Connecticut to New Jersey to continue its restoration.



Remember? "You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive". Author Unknown

CATTONAR'S CORNER

Cattonar's Corner

If you need to remove your Engine/Transmission from Your Thunderbird (MAJOR WORK)

We all need to remember that our cars are now more than 60 years old. The engines and transmissions do wear out with age and at some time things will have to be rebuilt or replaced. It will take more than one person (YOU) to get the engine and / or the transmission out of the car. If the engine and trans. are original, I recommend that you remove both at the same time. This way you can take the trans. to a trans. shop and save a lot of money at the same time by not having to pay them to remove and install the trans.

Once you have the engine/trans out of the car, try not to lay it down only on the pan. This can

lead to a warped pan so when you put it all back together again, it could leak. You can make a temporary stand out of wood or steel a milk box etc.

- You should already have removed fluids, the exhaust manifolds, carb. intake etc. prior to the removal. This avoids damaging these parts and makes the engine a lot lighter to handle
- Carefully remove the valve covers
- Unbolt the rocker shafts and mark either the left or right rocker with a file so you put them back the way they were.

When removing the rocker bolts, mark them with masking tape

- Remove each pushrod and also mark 1L, 2L etc. starting at the front, (left side) through 8L Pushrod location is critical to the cam. Also, check them for straightness.

- Head bolts next, also mark these since there are 2 different sizes. Pry the heads off carefully and also mark whether left or right. I use a punch on the left head in the shape of an L.

- Continue disassembly as much as you can remove. This makes it easier to handle the block when you bring it to the machine shop.

- Check out what the valves look like in the heads. Another thing to do is, look at the cylinder walls for smoothness, scratches, how much of a ridge etc.

- At the same time the engine is being done, decide whether you should freshen up the trans. since its out of the car. That will depend on, if it had been redone or you don't know anything about the trans. Remember since it's out you'll save some real money.

NOW IS THE TIME WHEN YOU WANT TO DETAIL THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT/FIREWALL, TRANS. TUNNEL ETC.

HAPPY T-BIRDING ! **JOHN CATTONAR T.O.N.Y. CLUB SECRETARY**

"It takes 8,460 bolts to assemble an automobile and one nut to scatter it all over the road!"

WHEELS 'N DEALS

- **FOR SALE:** Eight **Cylinder Heads** for a 292 Engine - in good re-buildable shape
contact: **Tony Cardone:** 631-473-7929
- **FOR SALE:** **Original 'in the package' ignition points for distributor** – for '57 Thunderbird -
contact: **Tony Cardone:** 631-473-7929
- **FOR SALE:** '57 Red Thunderbird for sale - \$28K contact **Mark Grodinsky.** 631-499-2106
- **FOR SALE:** '56 T-BIRD:

'56 T-Bird , 312 auto; blk/wh interior, 2 tops: black hardtop w/port holes & white soft top; wire wheels, Coker whitewall radials, no power steering, no power brakes. 3rd owner – purchased: 2004. all receipts -

Former Thunderbird member, **Tony Caudullo**, Sr. is selling his 1956 Thunderbird. The car is located at his son's home - Anthony Cardullo, in Shirley, Long Island, who can provide more detailed information:

631-655-5998 or tc152@optonline.net



NEWSY NOTES FOR DISCUSSION

Early Bird Magazine editor is looking for tech reports from club members - on a project or work done on their Thunderbird, that would be of interest to other Thunderbirders! Send to: Garrett Shropshire earlybird@ctci.org

Club member, **Allen Leon**, brought up this suggestion at the past meeting: The club would like a member to do a little **research** on purchasing a **custom vinyl banner** or sign, with our logo, for our club - one that we can place by our cars, during an event. Who will do this research and come up with information for the club? ...continue discussion at our next meeting. Thank you!

DISCUSS A CLUB'S **SUMMER CRUISE** ALONG THE OCEAN - Do club members want to cruise together along the beach this season? ...meeting at Cedar Creek Park in Wantagh around 5 p.m.? Sounds good, but only 5 or 6 cars have attended in the past.....speak up at the next meeting to give your input on cruising.

A NEW SUNDAY CRUISE SPOT - ... meet at the Miller Ale House parking lot in Commack on Vets Hwy. on Sunday mornings. NO FEE! Just show up with your wheels any time after 8:00 A.M. till 11:30 A.M.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

CHARLES PSARREAS – 5TH

CAROL BRZOZA – 19TH

NANCY FINK 21ST

PAT EDWARDS 24TH

MAUREEN TINNIRELLO – 27TH

FRANK SIGNORIELLO – 30TH



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email: legendbrdbob@hotmail.com



THUNDERBIRD SUPPLIER -

- Reminder: our very own member, **Bob Ceraso**, who owns **Legendary Thunderbird Parts & Cars**. (Long Island's largest T-Bird Parts Dealer) always has his door open if you're looking for or need help to find parts for your classic car. Even though Bob deals mostly with the little birds, he'll help you with anything car related! Give him a call!

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Ed Martinez – 631-265-0110 smithtownab157@gmail.com

Happy T-Birding
Arlene Swenson
swenson@otonline.net
631-277-9511
JULY 27, 2023

"I shouldn't have driven home from the bar last night – especially since I walked there". Author Unknown



The Long Island Thunderbird Club
and
Thunderbird Owners of New York
present the



**17th ANNUAL
SIBEN & SIBEN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
THUNDERBIRD & ALL FORD CAR SHOW**

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Rain Date October 8th)

**58 Indian Head Road
Kings Park, New York 11754**
(in the Keyfood Shopping Center)

**VEHICLES MUST BE ON SHOW
FIELD BY 10AM IN
ORDER TO BE JUDGED**

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
HIGHLY RECCOMENDED**

**T-shirt to the first
100 Vehicles**

Judging by



Awards in all classes

Food and restrooms on site ■ 50/50 drawing ■ Door Prizes

Portion of the proceeds to Building Homes for Heroes

Vendors welcome – Call ahead

Contacts: Elliott Weiner, 631-724-3756 or Dennis Benfante, 631-447-3847

**Music by:
DJ Bob Marketta**

Registration Info: Pre-Register: \$15.00 Day of Show: \$20.00 Voluntary Donation to Charity: \$5 ___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ Other \$ ___

Make checks payable to Dennis Benfante and send to: 15 Foxcroft Lane, East Patchogue, NY 11772

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Shirt Size: (check one) - Large _____ XL _____ XXL _____