

Thunderbird Owners of New York

1955's 1956's 1957's

Member, Classic Thunderbird Club International – Chapter 49 ~ June 2023 edition



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JUNE 2023

NEXT Meeting:

Monday, June 5, 2023

7 p.m. @ BETHPAGE LIBRARY

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

(up-coming meetings: July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 9: Concours))



Some interesting roads can't be discovered without getting lost - go for a drive in your beautiful classic!

MY MESSAGE: Arlene Swenson



Car Shows are beginning but the weather has difficulty cooperating. Sign up for some shows - many are supporting local charities - see if you can attend a car show every weekend throughout the summer! Our own club member, **Steve Siben** will be participating in a "Wheels of Wisdom" Charity car show in East Islip – at St. Mary's Church parking lot, Suffolk Lane, on Saturday, June 10th - see information in this newsletter. Steve will have ten of his classic cars on display! Be sure to attend! 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The CTCI organization will be asking CTCI members for your vote in June about changing the bylaws to let the retro Thunderbirds into the C.T.C.I. Club. Read all about it in Early Bird, March-April 2023 issue. Have you read about it? Have you discussed this with your fellow club members? Do the Little Birds want the Big Birds hanging around in their territory? What have YOU decided?

We're asking for member's reports on attending car show events.....send your reports to this editor before the 20th of any month. Cruise nights are every day of the week throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties - hope you're enjoying seeing other club members and their cars. Any "new" old ones out there? ...so, send in a story for the newsletter! ...add photos. Have you taken the drive to the beach? ...the VERY EARLY Sunday morning cruises?

- Do you have any auto related items or parts that you don't use or don't want anymore? Send a description here, and we'll list it for you in our newsletter – to sell. WHEELS 'N DEALS
- Although we thank **Allen Leon** for his informative monthly tech sessions, perhaps another member has a tech report that he'd like to share with the club too - don't be shy to speak, after Allen. Give Stan a Head's-up!

Our Club's car show is not 'til the end of the summer, but you'll see our club's car show registration form at the end of this newsletter. How about getting it out of the way by filling it out and sending your completed form along with your check to Dennis? Thank you!

If any of you plan on traveling long distances in your baby bird this summer, "be prepared" and consider having the following replacement parts (and of course the tools to use them) in your trunk, should you ever need them: other items not listed, I know you have already thought of...

1. Spare distributor rotor, cap, points, condenser
2. Spare coil, a coil to distributor wire, at least one spark plug and one spark plug wire
3. spare fuel pump with fittings, a 3 foot length of fuel-rated hose, 3 feet of vacuum hose
4. a set of fuses, a 3 foot length of wire with some connectors
5. a gallon of coolant, 2 quarts of oil, 2 quarts of ATF
6. the tools necessary to install all of the above and a moisture-proof container to put them all in
7. space for all of the above, especially if your car is a 1955 model

A CRUISE SUGGESTION: Call your fellow club members, to cruise to Flo's Luncheonette in Blue Point for comradery and eats! [Traditional American Food | Flo's Famous | United States \(flofamous.com\)](http://www.flofamous.com)

<https://www.flofamous.com/> Happy t-birding!!

SECRETARIES REPORT/MESSAGE

THUNDERBIRD OWNERS OF NEW YORK- MAY 1, 2023 MEETING NOTES - John Cattonar

Our monthly meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. as usual at the Bethpage Public Library.

We had only 12 members show up. Our Club President, **Stan Matusewicz** led the Pledge of Allegiance next. There was no treasurer's report since **Jim Mezey** is on vacation, but we still have approximately \$3,500.00 in the treasury.

OLD BUSINESS

I discussed the breakfast/ brunch that we had which was a success and that we will plan on having another one sometime during the summer months. We also spoke about the fact that the old car hobby is slowly becoming unaffordable since the auction prices have skyrocketed and people see that, and assume their cars are worth a lot more than they really are. No one had attended any car shows since the weather has been "Stinko" for the last 3 weekends so there was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

We reminded everyone that **THUNDERBIRD APRECIATION DAY** is quickly coming up on Sunday, **MAY 21st**. We will also supply soda with the pizzas this year for OUR CLUB MEMBERS that participate. Another added feature will be the Blind Drivers Test which **Allen Leon** will hold. The winner will get a trophy with a pair of glasses. Try to make the next meeting where we will be discussing a nice change for our yearly picnic.

Next up, we had a great presentation by **Allen Leon** on our Thunderbird brakes. He showed and discussed each part of the drum brakes we have on our cars. He also spoke about how the brakes go together. Thank you Allen. Meeting concluded at 8:20 P.M. with **Tom Rabbene** winning the 50/50, \$26.00.

(next meeting: July 3, 2023)



CLUB WEB-SITE: <https://thunderbirdownersofnewyork.godaddysites.com/> Thunderbird Appreciation Day photos on this website and also at end of this newsletter -- questions? Contact: Sal Perrotta: salperrotta1951@gmail.com

DATES OF INTEREST

- **Wednesday, June 14th** – Flag Day - <http://www.usflag.org/history/flagday.html> In 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.
- **Sunday, June 18th** – Father's Day – **Father's Day** was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd, and celebrated on the third Sunday of June for the first time in 1910.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! to all our Thunderbird Dads!!
- **Wednesday, June 21st** – Summer begins

CTCI SANCTIONED EVENTS

October 24 to 29, 2023 Regional Concours Convention - The Villages, FL
See all information in the March-April 2023 Early Bird magazine

MEMBER EVENT – Thunderbird Appreciation Day - on Sunday, May 21, 2023:

Thank you FROM Bob Ceraso - photos - event held in Kings Park



MEMBER REPORTS

FROM **John Cattonar** - cattbird@hotmail.com ...on attending a car show, May 7th Sunday

Was a day to behold. Beautiful blue skies, temperatures around 70 degrees. And more car shows than you could count, due to all the previous rainy 3 weekends. The end result was fewer old cars and vendors at each show.

I fired up the old T-Bird and headed to the Long Island Street Rod Show held at Wicks Road. Turned out that I was the only Thunderbird there. They did have a pretty good turnout of cars which was "beefed" up by more than 55 Mopar cars who had a separate judging area for all the Chrysler products that were there. The vendors' field was only a quarter filled, I think a result of all the other shows on the same day, and also being charged \$45.00 for a vendor spot. Personally, I enjoyed seeing all the different cars and old friends, plus ending the day with a People's Choice Trophy win.

I really hope to see some Thunderbirds at the next show I attend. Get that Bird on the road!

John Cattonar T.O.N.Y. Club Secretary

From **Bob Ceraso**: legendbirdbob@hotmail.com - Bob is/was an annual vendor at Carlisle -

SPRING CARLISLE, April '23 -

The Spring Carlisle swap meet went only okay... There were lots of buyers, but no one seemed to be buying... The 1 ½ mile trip from my Motel to the show grounds took me over an hour.. Buyer traffic was very heavy.. The buyer parking lot was pretty much full before 8:00 AM. I did not bring a lot of parts as I'm getting too old to unpack and re-pack my truck... I gave my 2nd space to member Pete Cucci. Pete put up is canopy, so I didn't think mine was necessary. WRONG! I got a pretty good sun burn... As for buyers, plenty of people walking the isles but very few buying. Although all the vendor spaces were pretty much full,

the buyers were just enjoying the walk? Anyway, I had previously decided this was going to be my last Carlisle attendance, so I didn't expect to do much sales...after all, at 84 years old, I am pretty much burn out from setting up and breaking down my displays... My vendor neighbors, knowing this, threw me a surprise party... lots of goodies to eat and nice gifts. Anyway, I'm done with the Spring, All Ford and Fall Carlisle Swap meets. It was a good 45 year run while it lasted.. I'll miss all the fellow T-birders I've met over the years but can keep in touch with them, via the internet.



FROM **Joe Nolan** - jpnolantbird@gmail.com -about the passing of Gil Baumgartner:

C.T.C.I. member, Gil Baumgartner held many roles from the Historian to the Authenticity Chairman. and was the official author of the “bible” for the Ford Thunderbird restoration manual.

C.T.C.I. Car Guy - Gilbert "Gil" Leon Baumgartner, 1936-2023

“He was the most outstanding contributor to advancing historical accuracy in the restoration and preservation of first generation Thunderbirds. He was kind, understated, and thoroughly knowledgeable in this endeavor and I always looked forward to listening to what he had to say. He was the most identifiable individual personality in CTCI and the most authoritative source for accurate information; although, he was always open to learning something new or undiscovered. There will never be anyone like him again.”

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/obituaries/gilbert-gil-leon-baumgartner/>

FROM: **Dennis Benfante**: tbirden@optonline.net ...about **Steve Linden who was only 65** -



We were all saddened by the news of the passing of our friend and Classic Car enthusiast Steve Linden.

Steve did a lot for the classic car community, including his weekly “Classic Car Doctor” article in Newsday. Steve always found time to make himself available to car clubs including a visit to one of our meetings. That one especially has a personal tie to me. At the meeting we spoke and I told him that I enjoyed his article every Friday, as a matter of fact, it would be the first thing I read after getting the paper from my driveway, I also told him I didn't want to tell him where I read it !! I think he got the picture. At that meeting I asked if I could purchase a copy of his book, Everything you wanted to know about “CAR COLLECTING” but he gifted it to me. He was kind'a shocked when I asked him to autograph it for me, which he did. He signed it “HAPPY

MOTORING” and signed it.

On another occasion, while visiting friends in Florida who were just starting to be “snowbirds” and leaving a car there for the summer, my friend Bart asked me about how to prepare the car for long term non-use.

He wanted to jack up the car and leave it off the ground. I said I don't think that's a good idea and said that I would email Steve for his advice, to which he replied “I'm leaving in a few days, so do you think you will get a reply before that? Well his question was answered within 10 minutes when my phone binged and there was a detailed reply as to what to do to leave the car long term, needless to say Bart was surprised by the prompt reply, and the advice.

I did communicate with Steve on a fairly regular basis regarding his articles and we did have a comical conversation regarding “Electric Cars”. He did say he was planning to go into detail in a future article regarding this subject. We discussed the ramifications it would have on our hobby and mused about retrofitting our T'Birds to accommodate an electric drivetrain.

Steve was a fine gentleman and a friend to all in the Classic car hobby, here on long Island and really anywhere in (or out) of the country with his vast knowledge and willingness to share that knowledge with us all.

JUNE CAR SHOWS

June					
3rd	Saturday	Car Show by Super Cruisers Car Club @ Greek Orthodox Church	Port Jeff	None	516-885-7445
3rd	Saturday	LI Corvette Owners Assoc Car Show @ Elks Club 901 Lakeville Rd	New Hyde Park	6-10-23	516-639-3666
2-3rd	Fri-Sun	All Ford Car Show and Swap Meet	Carlisle PA	www.carsatcarlisle.com	
4th	Sunday	57th Annual Car Show by GNYR Greater NY @ Westbury Gardens	Westbury	6/11/2023	631-875-7733
7th	Weds	Showing of Classic Cars for Seniors @ Atria Senior Living	Lake Ronkonkoma	None	631-252-9997
11th	Sunday	Car Show for St Judes Hospital and Veterans by LI Moose Club	Manorville	6/18/2023	631-831-3547
11th	Sunday	Car Show Fundraiser for Stony Brook Childrens Unit @ The Maples	Manorville	None	631-902-1522
11th	Sunday	Showing of Classic Cars for Seniors @ Trinity Baptist Church	Shirley	6/18/2023	631-252-9997
11th	Sunday	Car Show with vendors by Fungawee Car Club at West Hampton Beach Brewery		None	631-873-6068
11th	Sunday	Corvette Car show for Veterans @ Brookhaven Town Hall	Farmingville	6/25/2023	516-639-3666
16th	Friday	Showing of Classic Cars for Seniors @ Momentum Senior Living	E Islip	None	631-252-9997
17th	Saturday	67th Anniversary Automat Open House and Car Show **FREE**	Hicksville	6/24/2023	516-938-7373
18th	Sunday	Fathers Day Car Show by Nass County Sheriffs Dept for charity	Merrick	None	516-937-7800
25th	Sunday	Car Show by VCCA Queens County Region @ Rock Hall Museum	Lawrence	None	718-225-3438
25th	Sunday	Morgan Park Car Show by Gold Coast Cruisers All cars	Glen Cove	TBD	516-581-0129
25th	Sunday	Benefit Car Show by Centurion Cruisers Car Club @ St Anthonys	S Huntington	None	631-901-3608
25th	Sunday	Car Show by Bellport FD & Still Cruisin Car Club 161 S Country Rd	Bellport	None	917-697-4634

All events are subject to change so please call contact phone # for more or exact details

ADDED car shows for June:

Sunday, June 4 – Flowerfield Fairgrounds, St. James, NY

Saturday, June 10 – WHEELS OF WISDOM CAR SHOW – with 10 of **Steve Siben's** classic cars - - East Islip, NY - St. Mary's parking lot, Irish Lane - <https://events.longisland.com/vehicle-shows-events>

- 1954 hudson convertible
- 1956 packard caribbean conv
- 1957 chrysler 300 convertible
- 1957 dual ghia conv
- 1957 ford thunderbird
- 1962 ghia L6.4 coupe
- 1970 hemi cuda conv
- 1968 intermeccanica italia conv
- 1965 corvaire sedan
- 2007 aston martin vantage conv
- 2005 ferrari superamerica conv



Saturday, June 17, 2023 - car display for the Brightview Senior Living facility in Sayville. 10 am to 2 pm - south service road of Sunrise Highway just east of Broadway in Sayville

FIELD TRIP ?

* ...looking over old notes: From: Charles Noto (An Invitation to see his Car Collection) – In 2018, Sal received a note from our club member **Charles Noto**. Charles has a car collection of 29 cars in Bohemia. The collection includes Cadillac's, Packard's, Duesenberg and sports cars – even a '54 Kaiser Darrin - all CCCA and AACA in showroom condition. The cars range from 1912 to 1970's. Charles is inviting the club to come out to Bohemia and view the collection. Who will follow up to see if this tour is still available? Contact President **Stan**: curver@optonline.net or 631-379-9274

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Terrell - 3rd
Maureen Kazura - 17th
Nancy Fornaro - 24th
Stephen Katsur - 24th
David Dick - 26th
Dennis Benfante 28th
Irene McMinn - 28th
Ed Correra - 29th



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Happy T-Birding

Arlene Swenson
swenson@optonline.net

631-277-9511
MAY 22, 2023



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

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Year & Model _____ Stock _____ Modified _____

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



ADDENDUM to Thunderbird Appreciation Day report:

photos by Sal Perrotta

Report on Thunderbird Appreciation Day that was held in Kings Park, NY KeyFood Shopping Center - 5/21/23
...more photos are on the club web-site

THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY 2023

Well, we lucked out again with the weather turning nice but with a little bit of wind for our Thunderbird Appreciation Day.

Sunday, May 21, 2023 saw ten members show up with their "Little Birds" as well as four "Big Birds" and three "Retro Birds", for a total of only 17 cars. However, there were also a few members who showed up for the pizza. There was plenty of pizza with a couple of pies even left over.

While everyone was sitting around gabbing and checking out the cars, **Allen Leon** set up the Blind Driver Test, with the winner who got closest to the finish line, walking away with a trophy. It was won by a member of the "Big Bird Club" (Name unknown) but the worst driver blindfolded was **Marc Grodinsky** who also received a trophy. Not to worry, Marc always drives with his eyes wide open.

Members who drove to this event:

- Dennis Benfante, red 1957**
- Marc Grodinsky, red 1957**
- Robert & Kathy Groen red 1957**
- Jim Mezey, white 1957**
- Al Continelli, white 1957**
- Allen Leon, white 1957**
- Sal Perrotta, black 1956**
- Bill Cariello, black1956**
- Dan & Charlotte Burko, bronze 1957**
- Pat Scomello, yellow 1955**

We'd especially like to thank **Allen Leon** for being nice enough to bring donuts and coffee for the early attendees as well as getting the trophies for the Blind Driver Contest. THANK YOU ALLEN !

John Cattonar, T.O.N.Y. Club Secretary





