

# Thunderbird Owners of New York

1955's 1956's 1957's

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

## TALES OF A TWO-SEATER

[clubs.hemmings.com/tony/](http://clubs.hemmings.com/tony/)

### OFFICERS

President:

Stan Matusewicz – 631-231-3156  
[curver@optonline.net](mailto:curver@optonline.net)

Vice President:

Dennis Benfante – 631-447-3847  
[tbirdden@optonline.net](mailto:tbirdden@optonline.net)

Secretary:

John Cattonar - 631-269-4705  
[cattbird@hotmail.com](mailto:cattbird@hotmail.com)

Treasurer

Jim Mezey – 516-315-8608  
[jimmez@aol.com](mailto:jimmez@aol.com)

CTCI Advisory Council Rep.:

Bob Ceraso - 631-757-9476  
[legendbirdbob@hotmail.com](mailto:legendbirdbob@hotmail.com)

Tech Advisor: 1955's & '57's

Bob Ceraso - 631-757-9476  
[legendbirdbob@hotmail.com](mailto:legendbirdbob@hotmail.com)

Tech Advisor: 1956's

Stan Matusewicz - 631-231-3156  
[curver@optonline.net](mailto:curver@optonline.net)

Computer Advisor:

Sal Perrotta - 631-991-0306  
[salperrotta1951@gmail.com](mailto:salperrotta1951@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Nov. '23

Arlene Swenson – 631-277-9511  
[swenson@optonline.net](mailto:swenson@optonline.net)

## NOVEMBER 2023

### Election Meeting

(w/ Nominatinnns. Prior)

\*OUR Meeting place has changed for:  
**Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

**It's also a PIZZA MEETING**

**VICTOR'S PIZZA & PASTA HOUSE**  
**Melville (Huntington), New York 11747**

**712 Walt Whitman Rd. (Rt.110)**

**Time: 6 p.m.**

(up-coming events/meetings: Dec 4; Jan.7, Feb. 5)



**T-Bird members - note our new November 6th meeting place:**

T.O.N.Y. [NOVEMBER 6TH](#) CLUB MEETING (Something Special)

- Go on the web-site and click on DIRECTIONS - <https://victorspizzaandpasta.com/contact-us/>

**VICTOR'S PIZZA & PASTA HOUSE**

[712 Walt Whitman Rd.](#) (Rt.110).

Melville (Huntington), [New York 11747](#)

[631 351-1270](#)

Our next club meeting will be held at Victor's Pizza & Pasta House. Pizza / Soda and salads will be **free** to all club members and partners. Please try to get there [around 6:00 P.M.](#) or you might get cold pizza. The pizza house is in a small shopping center by an Ace Hardware RIGHT ON ROUTE 110.

With all members present, we will nominate officers of the club for 2024, so please try to attend. AND try to get involved.  
Hope to see you there on the 6<sup>th</sup> !

**JOHN CATTONAR T.O.N.Y. CLUB SECRETARY**

DATE: [NOVEMBER 6, 2023](#)

TIME: [6:00 P.M.](#)

PLACE: **VICTOR'S PIZZA & PASTA HOUSE**

[712 WALT WHITMAN RD](#) (RT.110)

[MELVILLE, NEW YORK 11747](#)

---

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**will be decided at the November club meeting**

**\* \* \***

**Finally, at our next meeting on November 6th we will be nominating and voting for several positions on the board: President ??, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor. Nominate a club member to serve on the Board-**

**Everything we do depends on volunteers so if you have the time, your help would be most welcome.**

The club welcomes a new member:

**JJ Gonzalez, II**

**26470 Bay Road**

**Bonita Springs, FL 34134**

**516-315-3598 [Jig@ai2llc.net](mailto:Jig@ai2llc.net)**

Yellow '55 - 292 Ford-o-matic WELCOME!

– sponsored by John Cattonar

**New member, John Gonzalez,** is looking for a mechanic to work on his '55 Thunderbird Please contact him if you are able to help out or give him suggestions for a good mechanic. See his email above.

Also, does anyone know of a good classic car mechanic in the Sayville area? Charlie Psarreas could use someone for his '57 T-Bird. - Charlie - [wa2zgz@aol.com](mailto:wa2zgz@aol.com) Thank you!!

---

## **DUES ARE DUE FOR 2024**

**HEAD'S UP: Dues for the next club year, will be due, by December 31, 2023**

**Please mail your check, made out to: T.O.N.Y.,  
prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, to our Treasurer:**

**Jim Mezey, 38 Appletree Lane, Carle Place, NY 11514**

- **Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive your Membership Card**

**\$20 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP; \$25 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP; \$36 ADVERTISER**

Dues are FREE for Board Members & it is \$5.00 for the Spouse of a Board Member.

---

## **OUR CAR SHOW - REPORT:**

**Results from The All Ford Car Show, Held Sunday, October 1st, 2023**

After days of heavy rains, once again we lucked out for our yearly All Ford Car Show sponsored by **Steve Siben.**

Sunday turned out to be a sunny summer day with temperatures in the high '70s even though it is October. Even though there were 6 other car shows competing with us, we still managed to have approximately **125 cars** and trucks show up. We even had 2 Retro birds come down all the way from Massachusetts for our show.

Our Thunderbird club had a good turn-out of **13 Thunderbirds** and many other members also showed up even though they didn't drive their Thunderbirds. There was a total of **17, 2 seaters** Thunderbirds

at the show . Some club members chose to not have their cars judged, but those that were judged did very well. Below are the results:

There was no winner from our club in the 1955 class

1956 1<sup>st</sup> Place went to **Edwin & Lydia Correa** Peacock Blue color

1957 1<sup>st</sup> Place went to **Allen Leon** Colonial White color

2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **David Gordon** Flame Red color

1957 Modified 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to **Dan & Charlotte Burko** Bronze color

Another club member, **Ron Kohlmann**, brought his red 1966 Thunderbird convertible to compete with the big birds and took a 1<sup>st</sup> place win. Also, a winner was **Larry Werkstell** with his red 2002 "Retro Bird" competing in that class.

Another winner was **Joe Marchione**, who walked away with a bucket of Armor-All auto care products. Joe, next time leave some tickets for the rest of us.

A special THANK YOU goes to our club member and benefactor, **STEVE SIBEN** FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR SPONSORING our show and a another special thank you, goes to our club Vice President, **Dennis Benfante**, as well as **Elliott Weiner** for helping put it all together.

... thanks to **Sal Perrotta**...his car show pics are on the **CLUB web-site**:

<https://thunderbirdownersofnewyork.godaddysites.com/>

And last but not least, all those who helped make it another successful All Ford Car Show !!

PREPARED BY: **JOHN CATTONAR** T.O.N.Y. CLUB SECRETARY



***Dennis Benfante added to John's car show report:***

Show was definitely a SUCCESS. !25 Cars, Some pre-registered, some day of show and a few latecomers that were too late to be judged....,but made a donation anyway. **\$2150.00 is going to Building Homes for Heroes.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

.... this is **Arlene's** next to the last newsletter.. She is retiring after 17 years as club editor.

We are asking for someone to take over as editor of this newsletter or for someone to at least send out club email messages along with the listings of club events, until an editor is on the Board. **Think about it!**

**THANK YOU.**

***Congratulations to Joe Nolan for BEST IN SHOW, Oct, 8<sup>th</sup> –  
Baldwin Fire Department's 9<sup>th</sup> annual car show.***

Joe won first in the antique class on October 1st, at the Town of Hempstead show at Point Lookout ( 900 cars ) and a Best in Show, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at a small Baldwin Fire Department event.

Joe reported that the Hershey Show had no '55 birds, 1 '56, and 3 1957's; one of which was an **F Bird (Supercharged)**. Spectators barely flinched.

Joe claimed that this is the new America and socio-economics are in play. "We must enjoy our cars as we know it and while we can. I still love the cars and showing mine. Peace".



---

**WHEELS 'N DEALS:**

From, Bob Ceraso- on TIRES - ...I have a set of 4, **FIRESTONE label (Coker tire) 750 x 14 Bias ply, wide white wall tires** for sale for only \$500. (List price is over \$900). These were only installed on the 1957 t-bird for less than 100 miles and removed to go to Radials. Tires are new, in Excellent condition. Contact Bob Ceraso 631-977-9476 or [legendbirdbob@hotmail.com](mailto:legendbirdbob@hotmail.com)

**DATES OF INTEREST - MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!**

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Daylight Saving Time ends - set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, the 4<sup>th</sup> , "Spring ahead; Fall back"

**Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** - Thunderbird Club Nomination & Election Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Bethpage Library –  
....address- front page

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** - Election Day

**Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** - Veterans Day – **thanking our Veterans!** "God Bless all who serve & have served to protect our country. Greater love hath no man than he who lays down his life for a friend."

**Veterans Day** is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is a federal holiday that coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were



formally ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect

**Sunday November 12** – Remembering our Veterans – Car show benefiting Operation Enduring Care- 9 to 2 -Walt Whitman HS, 301 W. Hills Rd., Huntington Station, NY 11746 - \$10 516-650-9095; 917-337-2234

**Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Toy & Food Drive by multiple car clubs @ Brookhaven Town Hall - 631-831-3647

**Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Thanksgiving - **wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** - Patchogue Christmas/Holiday Parade??? (starting at 4:30 pm) ...more discussion at the November meeting

**Sunday, January 7, 2024** - Club annual Holiday - mid afternoon dinner – cost, time & place to be discussed at meeting - Club pays for tax & tip

**(Newly elected officers will take their positions at the January (holiday) dinner meeting – January 7, 2024.**

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Gordon - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Cucci – 11<sup>th</sup>  
John Ogno – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Kathy Signoriello -22<sup>nd</sup>  
Roberta Signoriello – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Anthony Foster -27<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Ott – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Bill Malyakas – 29<sup>th</sup>



**PHOTOS, from the CTCI Regional Concours & Touring Convention -**  
CTCI Southeast Region 4 - at the Villages, FL - October 24 thru 29<sup>th</sup> - , 2023 [www.ctci.org](http://www.ctci.org)

**Pics - THANK YOU from Dennis Benfante, who visited the Convention:**









The guy with the Red T-Bird is Ron Davis, President of the Tampa Bay Thunderbird Club

# ADVERTISERS

## **LEGENDARY THUNDERBIRD PARTS & CARS**

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: [legendbirdbob@hotmail.com](mailto:legendbirdbob@hotmail.com)

## **SMITHTOWN AUTO BODY OF L.I., LTD.**

157 West Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787

[www.smithtownautobody.com](http://www.smithtownautobody.com) - servicing community for over 30 years

Free Estimates, 24 Hr. Towing,

collision repairs, refinish & restoration and more!

Ed Martinez – 631-265-0110 [smithtownab157@gmail.com](mailto:smithtownab157@gmail.com)



*Happy Thanksgiving!  
To You And Your Family*