

Thunderbird Owners of New York

1955's 1956's 1957's

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

TALES OF A TWO-SEATER

clubs.hemmings.com/tony/

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SEPTEMBER 2023

NEXT Event:

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 10

51st Mini-Concours and Annual Picnic

Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon, NY 11702

Exit 38 on the Southern State Parkway

(up-coming events/meetings: Oct 1; Nov.6; Dec 4)



DENNIS BENFANTE'S '57 - on the cover of C.T.C.I.'s Early Bird Magazine

MY MESSAGE: Arlene Swenson

Our Summer this year has been exceptionally hot! ...and I get the feeling that we didn't get to use our Thunderbirds as much as we would have liked -

We don't want to see "Labor Day Weekend" printed in any newspaper headline...because if we do, we know that our classic car season is coming to an end! Hopefully you were able to drive your baby birds to your favorite car shows this summer—we do have two more events with our club to use our cars - our Picnic and our Thunderbird All-Ford car show ... and if you haven't already sent it in, bring your registration form (see last page of this newsletter) for Dennis, for the October 1st show -

Our 51st annual Mini-Concours & Club Picnic is just around the corner - this year it'll be held at Belmont Lake State Park - Babylon, NY on Saturday, September 9th. NY State law sets the \$8 fee for entering the park. Anyway, ...no grilling for us this year, as foods will be brought in by Felicos Catering Company and they'll be doing the grilling!. Did you send you \$15 check to our club treasurer? This is a "deal" of a price for a picnic! Everyone received the menu. Members are only asked to bring their beverage of choice. Go early – anytime after 7 o'clock for coffee & donuts and checking out our cars; ...grilling begins at 12:30; 1 pm begins lunch; - Shine up your t-birds, clean those whitewalls and wipe down that engine! Wipe off that oil and grease under your car...especially by the tranny in the front, and the gas tank in the rear.



Bring your folding chair if you need a back-rest.... See you at the picnic!!

IMPT: In October, nominations are up for electing new officers - President, Vice President and Newsletter Editor. Any person wishing to hold a club position is encouraged to run for office - make your wishes known!

SAD NEWS - Our club expresses their sincere sympathies to the Matusiewicz family on the passing of Rhoda Schnitzer, Mindy Matusiewicz's mother on August 5th, in her 91st year. Mindy - knowing you're in the hearts and thoughts of others, help you and yours through this time of sorrow.

SECRETARIES REPORT/MESSAGE



- THUNDERBIRD OWNERS of NEW YORK --- AUGUST 2023 MEETING NOTES

PREPARED BY: JOHN CATTONAR, CLUB SECRETARY

Well, we lucked out again, so we were able to sit outside on a nice summer evening. This August meeting was again held @ the Burger King in Bay Shore with 22 members attending. **Jim Mezey** brought a small flag so we were able to pledge allegiance to the flag as we usually do to start our meetings. **Jim Mezey** our Treasurer, reported that we have \$3,098.63 in the treasury.

OLD BUSINESS

Dennis Benfante once again brought up the fact that not many people have signed up for the upcoming All Ford Show in October.

Only **22** people have signed up as of the meeting. Please remember to hand out the show flyers whenever you come across someone with a Ford product that might be interested in showing their car, whether it's a Ford, Mustang, Mercury, Lincoln or T-Bird. I reminded everyone about our brunch/breakfast at the Hauppauge Diner on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH @ 10:00 a.m.** No one else had any old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Since catering is a big expense for our upcoming club picnic, **Roberta Signoriello** began the discussion of possibly having heroes instead of the picnic being catered as **Allen Leon** had proposed. But in the end, the members present, voted for the picnic being catered at the Belmont Lake State Park this year. The only thing members have to do is show up and bring their own beverages and pay our Treasurer \$15.00 per person to help defray some of the cost. The club will cover the remaining cost. Keep in mind that the club will be paying the caterer for 40 people, so show up and take advantage of this good deal and meet other members of our club.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Members once again had an interesting Tech Session thanks to **Allen Leon**. Allen discussed the tires that we use on our Thunderbirds, radials vs bias, tire construction and other important facts and recommendations. ...Another informative presentation by Allen.

Meeting closed with the usual 50/50. Monday night's winner was **Tom Rabbene**. \$41.00

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

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 & July-Aug 2023 Early Bird.

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

Were there any club discussions with our members at meetings about this regional convention?

MEMBER REPORTS

SAYVILLE SUMMER FEST - reported from John Cattonar:

On June 6th the town of Sayville once again, held their "Summer Street Fest". For those that have never gone, the town closes the Main Street and has anyone with an old car park diagonally on the street for display. This is usually attended by thousands of people, especially on a nice sunny day, as was the case this year.

Showing their cars this year from our club were: **SONNY PACI**, with his award-winning 1956 white T-Bird with red and white interior, **STEVE SIBEN** with his no. 1, red 1957 with red interior and **PAT SCOMELLO** with his dazzling 1955 bright yellow T-bird.

This year, the turnout for this event appeared to be about 20% less than previous years. I wonder if it had anything to do with them charging \$30.00 just to show your car (On the day of the show).

I personally think this is "over the top" when you consider, most of the merchants in the town are probably making more money than any other Sunday. The old cars are the big draw. Just my opinion.

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

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Well, our club had another breakfast get together on Saturday, August 26th at the Hauppauge Palace Diner. As in the past, we had the back room, so we all sat together. We had a very good turn-out, **26 people** showed up, even though the weather did not cooperate this time, so no one brought their little bird. Then, wouldn't you know it, after everyone finished eating and began leaving, the sun came out! No matter what the politicians say, we really can't control the weather.

Pray the weather is MUCH better for our picnic in September.

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



***PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO CAR SHOW IN PATCHOGUE ON Sept. 16**

SEPTEMBER CAR SHOWS

10th	Sunday	Car Show w/Vendors by Fabulous 50's 60's Car Club @ Tanner Park Copiague	9/17/2023	631-402-2798
13th	Weds	Car Show for Veterans By Vintage Chevy Club @ NYS Veterans Home St Albans		516-662-9379
16th	Saturday	Car Show by Thunderbird Owners of NY Open to All @ St Josephs E Patchogue	9/23/2023	631-447-3847
16th	Saturday	Car Show Benefitting St Judes Childrens Hospital on Main St	Cutchogue	9/17/2023 631-831-3547
16th	Saturday	Car Show Benefitting St Elizabeths Ann Seton 800 Portion Rd	Ronkonkoma	None 631-402-2798
17th	Sunday	Car show for European Exotics by Mercedes Benz Club LI/NYC	Old Westbury	9/24/2023 917-763-0178
17th	Sunday	Car Show with vendors by Fungawee Car Club at West Hampton Beach Brewery	None	631-873-6068
24th	Sunday	Car Show sponsoring a Guide Dog for the Blind @ Town Hall	Farmingville	631-402-2798
24th	Sunday	Italian Feast & Car Show w/Super Cruisers Club @ Antoni Ravioli	Massapequa	10/1/2023 516-779-5927
24th	Sunday	TOBAY Beach Car Show Go to www.CARSHOWLI.com for details	Massapequa	10/1/2023 516-797-4121
!8-1st	Thu-Sat	Fall Carlisle Swap Meet and Auction	Carlisle PA	www.CarsatCarlisle.com

Add to this list: CAR CRUISES AND CAR SHOWS – September 2023 and etc.....

<https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=longislandclassiccars&PHPSESSID=dc7e9b06d4d49f448d5a394f8c9e9edc&jsenabled=1&winh=967&winw=1920&inifr=false>

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 – Odometer reads: 38,571 miles - \$28K contact**
Mark Grodinsky. 631-499-2106



* ...from autoevolution: '57 Thunderbird - 8-27-23

Known as one of America's first personal luxury cars, the Thunderbird was actually born as a two-seater sports car aimed at the Corvette. Unlike the latter, it was available with V8 engines only. Launched with up to 198 horsepower on tap, the Thunderbird's output grew to 225 horses in 1956. It was far from impressive for the era, but Ford took it up a notch in 1957.



That's when it began offering a high-performance 312-cubic-inch (5.1-liter) Y-block with 270 horsepower and a [supercharged version](#) of the same mill good for 300 horses. Fitted with McCulloch or Paxton blowers as dealer options, the latter is quite rare, with only 194 examples made. ...but you already knew that!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Leon - 1st
Florence Dick - 8th
Lydia Correa - 14th
Michael P. Vorisek - 21st

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!



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ROBERT CERASO 631-757-9476 cell# 631-877-9476

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

August 30, 2023



BIG BIRDS, are NOW members IN C.T.C.I. - what do you think?

ONE MORE THING...

...So this guy in his '55 Thunderbird stalled his car down the road from his house with a dead battery. ...his wife drove buy and asked how she could help and after checking the owner's manual the husband said it says here if you get going 35 mph the power-glide will kick and it will start, so he gets in and the wife goes around the block and gets it up to about 35 mph and plows into the back of him. (...damp squib)



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

Music by:
DJ Bob Marketta

Vendors welcome – Call ahead

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

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 _____