



San Antonio, Texas

# MAY 2023



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*Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area.*



## Presidents Message for May 2023

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The comments I have received so far indicate that those who attended the Car Show at the Sodalis Senior Center thought it was a big success! There were about two dozen STTC members attending with a variety of classic Tbirds and other Club cars to show off to the Seniors of the Center. There were about a half dozen or so Seniors who came out before lunch to see the cars. We even got them up close and personal with our cars along with us as you should see in the photographs.

After our Tbirds strutted their stuff for an hour it was time for us to mount up and take off for our Potluck Lunch. What a great Potluck Lunch that Danny and Kathy put on! We greatly appreciate them opening their beautiful home to us. The food was to die for and plenty of it! I have always said that the best food can be found at Potluck events because everyone brings their favorite dish. The weather was great and it was nice outside in the shade with a light breeze. Everyone enjoyed a lot of personal conversation and being able to relax with each other. The Activities Committee also took advantage to meet and go over the possible events to fill in our activities for August and September. Those who were unable to make this one missed a great reception at the Nursing Home, and at the Potluck!

Our next Meeting and Cruise will be on May 27th, 2023, 10am, Wild Seed Farm Cruise, Fredericksburg.

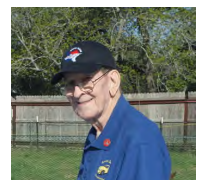
June 24, 2023 9am – 11am Gateway Classic Cars – New Braunfels.

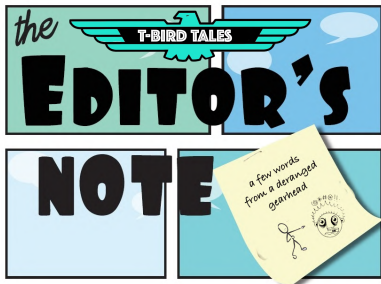
July 22nd, Saturday 10AM-11:30AM. Note Time Change. Business/Social Meeting Jordan Ford IH-35N Conference Room. Lunch to be determined.

See the Website for more details. <https://southtexasthunderbirdclub.com>

Best Regards

Ray Clark, STTC President





# Editor's Chinwag



This month I would like to shout-out about "THE SCOOP" - VTCI's magazine. If you are NOT a member of VTCI then you are probably not receiving a copy of the magazine. That would be a shame - it is chocked full of interesting stuff.

Seth & Becky's Retro Bird made the cover of the "SCOOP"



Have  
You  
Got a  
Story  
to Tell?

**Still asking all members to write up a story**, about their Thunderbird, with pictures. Tell us how you acquired your car, why it is special and what you enjoy doing with your Thunderbird. First, it will be placed on the website under "Featured Club Story" and then moved to "Club Members Stories" under News when another member's story is featured. Can't wait to read and share everyone's story!







# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## M A Y

### BIRTHDAYS

John C	5/14
Marilyn C	5/13
Linda D	5/21
Perry D	5/26
Barbara C	5/29



### ANNIVERSARY

Stan & Olga

5/22

LOVE



Monday May 29, 2023



Sunday May 14, 2023

### May Zodiac Sign

There are (2) Zodiac Signs that encompass the month of May

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



TAURUS



GEMINI



May Birthstone  
Emerald





# The Rear View

## April Events



### STTC Cruise - Show Sodalis Senior Living

Sodalis Senior Living Facility Garden Ridge

This months cruise was to see the good folks at Sodalis (now called Graceland). It was great fun and the folks really appreciated the cars but more importantly the conversations with the STTC Members.







# The Rear View

## April Events

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### STTC Cruise - Show Sodalis Senior Living

Sodalis Senior Living Facility Garden Ridge







# The Rear View April Events

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## STTC Cruise - Show Sodalis Senior Living Sodalis Senior Living Facility Garden Ridge







# The Rear View April Events



## STTC Cruise - Show Sodalis Senior Living Sodalis Senior Living Facility Garden Ridge







# The Rear View April Events

Danny & Kathy V hosted the STTC April “Potluck” and it was **TERRIFIC!** Great host, great food, great atmosphere, great weather! In other words - **GREAT!**

Love those “Thunderbird Cookes”!







# The Rear View April Events

Danny & Kathy V hosted STTC "Pot Luck"







## New STTC Club Members

The month of May welcomes new member(s) Denise and “Tex” Liedtka with their 2002 “Retro” Thunderbird. Welcome to the South Texas Thunderbird Club.



*Have  
You  
Got a  
Story  
to Tell?*

The second pic is when our friend Davy Beicker let me drive his Bird to go look at the one I would actually buy. The funny thing is I spotted my Tbird on the lot at Hovey Motors while I was actually test driving a lovely fully loaded Honda, lol! I felt so sorry for that Honda salesman, but I fell in love with the Bird as soon as I drove past it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

# STTC Schedule of Events



### **May 27th, 2023, 10am, Wild Seed Farm Cruise, Fredericksburg.**

In past years we made this short stop on our way to cruise the Willow City Loop. Comments have been made that they would have liked to spend more time there instead of the short pit stop we made. Lunch first at around 11am at Backwoods BBQ. Then cruise to the Wild Seed Farm where members can spend as much time there as they wish.

### **DETAILS –**

IH-10w Lowes where we have met before at the Rim at **10am**, then on to Fredericksburg, via Hiway 87 off of IH-10.

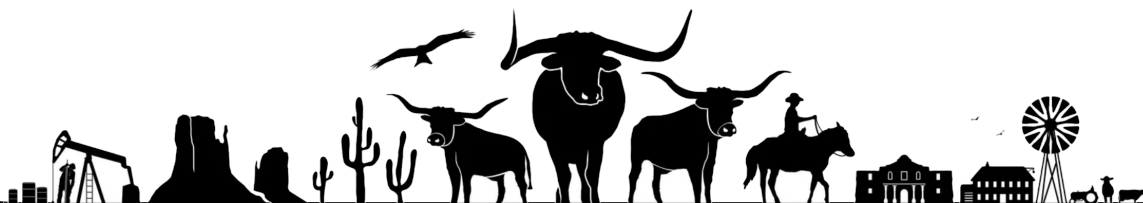
10:15am Departure. Lowes at The Rim, 18303 Rim Dr 78257

After Lunch at Backwoods BBQ off to Wildseed Farms 100 Legacy Dr, Fredericksburg 78624

We will need someone with a passenger to take the lead with the radios, which I have and someone with a passenger to be the Caboose. We will do that at The Rim.

On another subject, the publishing of the STTC May issue has been expectedly delayed for good reasons that I will not get into at the moment. It is hoped that it will be coming out shortly as soon as it can be finalized.

See ya all there, and as usual show your colors by wearing your STTC Caps and/or shirts.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

# STTC Schedule of Events



**June 24, 2023 9am – 11am**

### **Gateway Classic Cars – New Braunfels**

Only 3 of their franchises are in Texas. This one, one in Houston and one in Grapevine (Dallas).

They will provide free coffee, donuts and display our cars. They will contribute \$10 to STTC for our favorite charity for every car we bring. So let the BIRDS fly the coup for a day!

The Activities Committee will determine where we go for “grub” (lunch). Looking for suggestions from those in the New Braunfels area

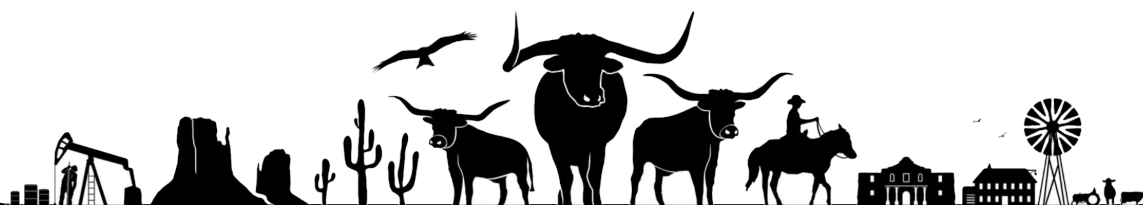
**Address:** 679 Holcan Dr Suite 105, New Braunfels, TX 78130



### **August 26, 2023, 11am, Stinson Airport, San Antonio**

Short Cruise to Stinson Field for Lunch, to view the airport activity and tour the Museum there.

**Details to follow –**









**August 16th-19th VTCI International 2023 Convention.**

**Location: Cartersville, GA.**

**More information as VTCI provides it.**



## **ITC Thunderbird Reunion**

**Ford World Headquarters**

**Aug. 22-27, 2023**

**For further information contact**

**Gerard "Bart" Bartasavich, ITC President**



# MARKETPLACE

## In The Market / On The Market

Jay Tartell, San Antonio has a 2002 Yellow Retrobird for sale. He has owned it for many years. It has 110,000 miles on it. He has a lot of new parts on it, AC, Brakes, PS Pump, Alternator, Hard Boot Yellow Cover. It is accident free and he has all the maintenance records on the Tbird. Details on the Tbird are available.

Call him for further details at  
**210-478-0560**

if you have a serious interest in it.

### On The Market



### On The Market

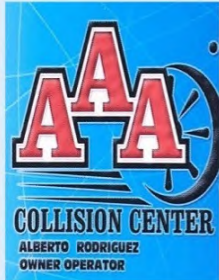


Samantha Mahler recently contacted me regarding Tbird parts she has for sale. She is not a member of this Club, but I am assisting her in disposing of these parts after the Passing of Her Father. She will be reviewing these parts shortly to determine which might be NOS and which look to be Used.

"Hi there! My name is Samantha. My Father recently passed away and left behind a collection of vintage car parts, mostly for his '55-'63 Tbirds. He had sold his cars a few years back but still had these parts. I am looking to sell these car parts either as a whole or individually. I'm based in Houston, and am willing to meet with anyone who is interested in buying the Lot of these parts. Respond via this email: mahlersamantha@gmail.com or you can call or text me at 361-455-2397. Thank you! Samantha Mahler"



# PARTS / SERVICE



Expertise in Body  
and Paint Work  
Mechanical  
Free Estimates  
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FAX. 972.557.8153  
✉ pulidogmc\_72@hotmail.com  
🌐 www.pulido plating.com

5404 Dubby Ln Balch Springs, TX 75180



**Thunderbirds Southwest**  
4635 E. State Highway 71  
La Grange, TX 78945  
<https://thunderbirdswest.com/>  
Owner Lance E. Herrington  
Full-Service Thunderbirds  
1955-1979  
Featuring restoration,  
mechanical service,  
consignment,  
sales, and parts.



*~Delivering Professional Solutions  
for Your Classic Car!*

35 Rust Lane, Boerne, TX 78006  
(830)336-4680  
[www.HotRodGarageBoerne.com](http://www.HotRodGarageBoerne.com)

# PARTS / SERVICE



*Pena Bros. Upholstery Co.  
Automotive Interior Center  
5305 Bandera Rd  
San Antonio, Texas 78238  
210-647-4200 Fax 210-520-1854  
Rudy G. Pena*



[www.penbrosoautotops.com](http://www.penbrosoautotops.com)  
[www.penabrotrim@yahoo.com](mailto:www.penabrotrim@yahoo.com)

**Southwest Chrome Plating**  
9023 IH -10 East  
Converse, Texas  
**210-658-8087**

**Email: [swchrome@hotmail.com](mailto:swchrome@hotmail.com)**

Affiliated with Pulido Plating, will pick up and deliver back to this location for your chrome plating needs. Email is the best way to get hold of them from the website or call the Balch Springs location.



Specializing in 55/57 Thunderbird Parts  
Ford & Motorcraft Parts  
Classic Car Restoration  
29625 Bashan Road ~ Racine, Ohio 45771

740-949-1956  
Fax: 740-949-1957  
[tbirdcenter@sprintmail.com](mailto:tbirdcenter@sprintmail.com)  
[www.hillsresto.com](http://www.hillsresto.com)

Tim Hill  
Parts Manager



CONCOURS AUTO SALON

2450 Babcock Road # 138  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  
Phone 210-616-9669  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00-6:00  
Saturday: 8:00-1:00  
Sunday: Closed  
[info@concoursautosalon.com](mailto:info@concoursautosalon.com)



# PARTS / SERVICE



## List of Dealers for Parts

- ▼ 58-66 Bird Nest 800-232-6378 [www.tbirdparts.com](http://www.tbirdparts.com)
- ▼ 55-72 Classic Auto Parts 800-654-3247 [www.classicautoparts.com](http://www.classicautoparts.com)
- ▼ 55-86 Concours Parts 800-722-0009 [www.concourspartd.com](http://www.concourspartd.com)
- ▼ 58-94 Thunderbird Ranch 715-884-6546 [www.tbirdranch.com](http://www.tbirdranch.com)
- ▼ 55-56 Casco 800-374-0914 [www.classictbird.com](http://www.classictbird.com)
- ▼ 55-56 Hill's Classic Cars 740-949-2217 [www.hillsresto.com](http://www.hillsresto.com)
- ▼ Rock Auto [www.rockauto.com](http://www.rockauto.com)
- ▼ Hi-Tech Electronic/Radio Repair Service, (Modern ClassicT-Birds and more)  
Van Nuys, CA, 818-785-8085  
[Service@Hitechserv.com](mailto:Service@Hitechserv.com)  
or <https://hitechserv.com/electronicrepairs/oem-navigation-dvd-ed-charger-repair/>
- ▼ Rick Monroe "Straightnshinybygolly" Chrome Straightening & Polishing  
Phone: (210) 584-5856. Email: [mongooserpm@gmail.com](mailto:mongooserpm@gmail.com)







## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



### Summer Means Keeping Your Cool!



The summer is rapidly approaching and it is already getting warm. With the summer brings the potential of your vehicle overheating. Considering that many of the cars in the club are vintage the risk of overheating increases. Consider that the Thunderbird covers the years 1955 up to 2005. During that time a lot of changes have occurred with respect to engine cooling.

If you have not already given thought to your cooling system, NOW would be a good time to. Making sure your cooling system is up to snuff in Texas is paramount - especially if you have older vehicles. Nothing worse than taking a leisurely cruise seeing the temp gauge climb or steam puffing out from under the hood.

This month's "Tech Tip" is about things to think about your beloved "Birds" engine cooling system. The information is general in nature and not directed to any particular make/model vehicle.

Let's start with popping the hood and taking a peek at your cooling system. The cooling system comprises of more than just a radiator and cap.

HHMMM . . .  
What do we have here?



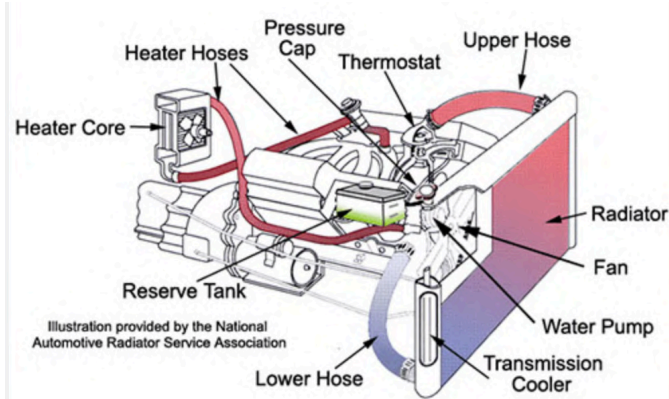


## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



### Summer Means Keeping Your Cool!

#### Inspection -



**Radiator** - what is the condition? Has it ever been replaced, if not, has it ever been removed and boiled (as they say) to remove debris and corrosion within the core. Are the fins straight - damaged fins that have been rolled over reduces cooling capacity. Inspect around the upper and lower tank - these are soldered

to the radiator core and is a potential for leaks. Note: modern radiators have gone to plastic upper and lower tanks that are crimped to the radiator core.

Check your radiator hoses-Your cooling system's primary radiator hoses are what they refer to as a upper and lower radiator hose. HOWEVER, the cooling system comprises of a number of additional hoses that need to be inspected and they are subject to wear, deterioration leading to failure.

There are the heater hoses - usually (2), there is the water pump by-pass hose. On the "Retro-Birds" there are a number of hoses that need to be inspected. The "Retro-Birds" have an auxilary coolant circuit as well as the engine oil cooler tied into the engine coolant system.



**Radiator Hose Failures**



**Brown Coolant  
NOT GOOD**

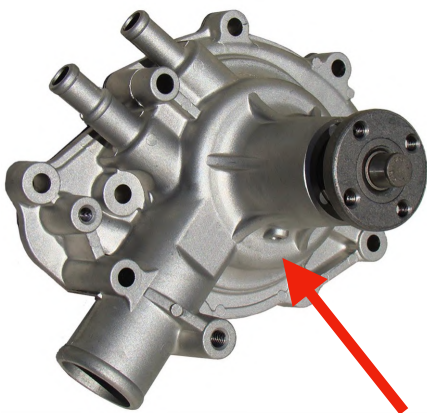


## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Another area of your cooling system is the “water pump”. Which usually has the engine fan attached. However modern vehicles such as the “Retro-Birds” there is NO fan attached to the water pump (they are electrical). On your older vehicles the water pump generally has what is referred to as a “weep” hole below the water pump shaft that the fan attaches to. This is wear the pump shaft bearing and seal are located. IF you observe rust or wetness coming from the “weep” hole - you have a problem - it needs to be retified ASAP. Obviously the loss of coolant will lead to overheating. Worse, the pump shaft bearing could be going out which potentially may lead to the shaft failing and the fan flying around the engine bay wreaking all kinds of havoc. It is a pay me now, or pay me later” moment.

At the same time you are inspecting the water pump you need to inspect the water pump/fan belt. I am going out on a limb and say that most of us have had a fan belt fail in our lifetime - it is always at the most inopportune time. I am a firm believer that a fan belt should be replaced at a scheduled maintenance period - BEFORE it fails. Also to note - your water pump may have more than one belt as there may be other accessories being driven off the fan belt - for example - the alternator and/or AC compressor.



Water Pump Weep Hole  
Located at bottom of pump  
shaft



Tell Tale Sign of Water Pump Leak



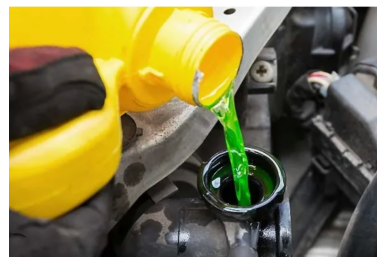


## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



### A word about coolant -

Coolant or as some would say “anti-freeze” has changed considerably in the last 75 years. The Thunderbird was produced at various times from 1955 to 2005. The anti-freeze (coolant) requirements are different based on the years of production.



There are three types of antifreeze available: Inorganic Acid Technology (IAT), Organic Acid Technology (OAT), and Hybrid Organic Acid Technology (HOAT).

- IAT is mainly used in older vehicles, is usually bright green, and has to be replaced every 30,000 miles.
- OAT antifreeze/coolant is usually orange, yellow, red, or purple, and lasts much longer — 150,000 miles — but doesn't contain any silicates or phosphates for additional engine protection.
- HOAT antifreeze/coolant is typically orange or yellow and can last for 150,000 miles.

Antifreeze/coolant now comes in so many brands and formulations that you can't rely on color alone to understand what you're pouring into your engine. Almost all of it is pre-diluted with water for convenience, but using a pre-diluted product also means you're paying more for less coolant.



Coolant Compromised



## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



### Things to Remember

Here are a few other points to remember when it comes to your engine coolant choice:

1. Coolant type cannot be accurately identified by color. Both OAT and HOAT are often orange or yellow, so they can be easily misidentified.
2. Automakers don't adopt new coolants on a simple schedule. It's entirely possible for two vehicles from the same manufacturer to use two completely different coolant types.
3. Just because a vehicle had one type of coolant when it left the factory doesn't mean a different type of coolant wasn't installed at some point in the life of the vehicle. When changing back to the factory recommended coolant, a complete cooling system flush should be performed first.

One great way to ensure you get the right coolant to keep your vehicle on the road and running smoothly is by having your vehicle maintenance performed at a [AAA Approved Auto](#)

### Never mix different types of coolant

Unless you're an expert on the exact chemical composition and reactions of the various types, keep it simple and stick with what the manufacturer recommends. **Mixing the wrong types could cause radiator and cooling system damage** (which could lead to engine/waterpump damage) and a repair bill that'll make you pass out on the floor. Which could then lead to an expensive doctors bill. Check the owners manual.





## CAR-TOON MAGAZINES OF YESTERYEAR

**Does any remember the “old” comic car magazines?**

Growing up in El Paso during the 60's I couldnt get enough of the CarToons, HotRod Cartoons, Racing Toons - you name it - if it had to do with cars I was into it.

I still have some holdovers such as these from my old collection just for old times sake.

**Uh OH, your editor caught reading an old CarToons**







## About South Texas Thunderbird Club

San Antonio Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC) Inc. has been in existence for 44 years 1979-2023. STTC is a family-oriented organization with the goal of enjoying, having fun and preserving our Thunderbirds among friends and elevating the interest of these beautiful cars within our community. Our annual membership is \$20.00 and prorated throughout the year for new members. These dues entitle members to a club roster and the club's monthly newsletter. Most importantly membership provides the opportunity to contribute and participate in Regional/International Conventions. Dues are due on January 1st and no later than January 31st.

**We welcome all Thunderbirds from 1955-2005**



### Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI)



South Texas Thunderbird Club Inc. (STTC) is a chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International. This organization is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all Ford Thunderbirds 1955 - 2005. If you are not a member of VTCI and would like to join, you can go to VTCI's website at

**[www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net)**

download an application form, include fee and mail it to

**VTCI**

**P.O. Box 75308**

**Wichita, KS 67275**

– or –

fill it out online.

– or –

You can join through our website

**[www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com](http://www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com)**

if you prefer.

# SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

STTC OFFICERS	COMMITTEE DIRECTORS	VTCL OFFICERS
<b>President</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Bruce Reader (630) 464-8200	<b>President</b> Rod Wake
<b>Vice-President</b> Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	<b>Auto Technical Advisor</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Vice-President</b> Bob McNeill
<b>Secretary</b> Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	<b>Website Assistance</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Executive Secretary</b> Jake Wake
<b>Treasurer</b> Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	<b>Historian</b> Marilyn Carron -----	<b>Treasurer</b> Randy Mattson
	<b>Name Tag Coordinator</b> Jerry Cowan -----	<b>Concourse Director</b> Paul Prokop
	<b>Activities Chairman</b> Gary Faight	<b>Technical Director</b> Alan Tast
		<b>Publication Director</b> Terri McNeill
		<b>Country Store</b> Laura Wahrmond
		<b>South Central Regional Director</b> Brian Carron



Websites  
[www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com](http://www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com)  
[www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com)







[www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com](http://www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com)

## Membership Application

**South Texas Thunderbird Club** (STTC), located in San Antonio, Texas, is a local chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI)

- STTC dues are \$20.00 per year, prorated at \$2 per month
- VTCI dues are \$40.00. You can apply on their website: [www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net)

Member info: your name: \_\_\_\_\_ birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
first / last month / day  
spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_ birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
first / last month / day  
anniversary date: \_\_\_\_\_ VTCI #: \_\_\_\_\_  
if currently a member  
address: \_\_\_\_\_  
street city st zip  
telephone: hm ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
email: \_\_\_\_\_

T-birds owned: year: \_\_\_\_\_ model: \_\_\_\_\_  
year: \_\_\_\_\_ model: \_\_\_\_\_  
year: \_\_\_\_\_ model: \_\_\_\_\_

### Waiver And Release From Liability

As a member of the South Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC), I am solely responsible for any damage or injury to third parties, or to myself resulting from anything connected with STTC Club activities. I agree to indemnify and hold STTC Club, and Officers harmless for, or in any claim, loss, damage, injury, or liability, that may be asserted by me, or by any third party as a result of my activity. The foregoing covenants of exculpation and indemnity are intended to be and are complete, general and without restriction and include, but are not limited to, negligence (active or passive) or willful reckless or wanton activity. I further warrant that I carry automobile liability insurance on the vehicle, meeting or exceeding all Texas statutory requirements and that this insurance will be in force and effect for all STTC activities in which I participate. This release will be active for all STTC Club activities/events in which I participate.

member's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

spouse's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB

mail application (with check) to: Danny Varella  
27302 Park Loop Road  
New Braunfels, TX 78132

for more club info, please contact:

Ray Clark [rayclark07@att.net](mailto:rayclark07@att.net) (210) 875-1411



revised 11.28.22

## VTCI Membership Application Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

	US and Canada	All Other Countries
January / February	\$40.00	\$60.00
March / April	\$35.00	\$55.00
May / June	\$30.00	\$45.00
July / August	\$25.00	\$40.00
September / October	\$55.00	\$90.00 includes next year
November / December	\$50.00	\$80.00 includes next year



VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above-please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable & mail to:  
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

\*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.