





## SEPTEMBER 2023

#### THE GREAT STINSON FIELD THUNDERBIRD FLY IN



**Thunderbirds Land At Stinson Field - Page 4** 

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Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area.

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#### **Presidents Message for September 2023**

Thank you all who joined us on the August Mini-Cruise to Stinson Field for lunch, and a chance to pose our Tbirds on the tarmac. I had hoped that they would have their P-51 Mustang on display, but, unfortunately, that was not to be. I also thank the members of the Little Bird Club for joining us. It was great to have the opportunity to meet some of their members that we have never met before. We will be looking to see them again Saturday, October 21st at the Hemi Hideout Cruise in Brookshire! As announced at our meeting at Stinson Field, the STTC Tbird Tales Newsletter was awarded another VTCI Gold Award for our outstanding newsletter. If I have the count correct, that is our 8th in a row, thanks to the fantastic efforts of our longest standing Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Carron and our current Newsletter Editor Bruce Reader! Brian has sent me our certificate which will be presented to Bruce at our upcoming September Pot Luck Lunch. He has a lot of pix to go through regarding our outing at Stinson Field, and should have the newsletter out shortly.

There are several action items that the membership needs to complete. One is filling out and submitting to Danny & Kathy Varella the list as to what you will bring to the Pot Luck Lunch. Please do that quickly so they know what all is going to be brought. If you have any questions, please contact them. Another item is that I still need your vote on re-ordering Black STTC Caps. We are down to one Black Cap. Please email me with your Yes/No vote ASAP. The cost will be the same as it was for the White Cap order. We lose no funds out of our Piggy Bank because the Caps pay for themselves.

Another action item that I need the STTC membership to reply to concerns how many members in STTC intend to make the cruise to the Hemi Hideout in Brookshire, Saturday, October 21st. I have contacted 12 Tbird Clubs across Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. So far, I have firm commitments from 7 Clubs who will have members attending, with the possibility of Clubs in Oklahoma and Louisiana joining us. I need quickly from you is a nose count on the number of STTC members who intend to join us and how many Tbirds are expected to be driven. I will have to provide that information to Shelly Gates in about 2 weeks. I have the Little Bird Club count as to those joining us on this Cruise.

As we approach the Fall this month's Pot Luck Lunch will be our final meeting to conduct any STTC Business. IF there is anyone who would like to contend for President, VP, Treasurer, or Secretary (we still need a volunteer for that position!) this is your opportunity to present your challenge. Otherwise, we will be going into our December Christmas Party without having to take care of that kind of business as we have in the past. Thanks to the STTC By-Laws the membership approved a couple of years ago.

See the Website for more details.

https://southtexasthunderbirdclub.com/
Best Regards,
Ray Clark, STTC President



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

## SEPTEMBER

# LOVE

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Stan L	9/06
Robbie H	9/07
Barry B	9/11
Linda R	9/20
Brian C	9/24
Bruce R	9/24
Lynn C	9/29

### **ANNIVERSARY**

Ed & Helen 9/11

September 7, 1954 – Ford Thunderbird production begins





#### **September 25, 1926**

Henry Ford cuts the work day to 8 hours and doubles his workers pay. Somehow, this increased productivity at his factories and the 40 hour work week was born.



### September Zodiac Sign

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

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sep 22) LIBRA (Sep 23 - Oct 22)







September Birthstone Sapphire





### SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB AUGUST CRUISE

#### THE GREAT STINSON FIELD THUNDERBIRD FLY IN



Thunderbirds by the score descended on Stinson Field (Airport) for the STTC August event. It appeared to be quite a success as there was quite a crowd.



"The BIRDS" on the flight line





## Gathering of "Thunderbird Flight Crews"





















Made In The Shade! Much needed shade from the sun.



Post flight debrief from the "Wing Commander" aka "The Prez"



Heading in for chow!









### Thunderbird Squadron Chow Time











Great grub and conversation post fight ops debriefing.

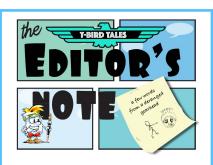








"The Prez" making the rounds checking on the flight crews



Thanks to everyone who provided pictures of the event.

It is greatly appreciated by the editor!





OK, where's the chow - we're hungry - flying a squadron of "Thunderbirds" works up one's appetite.





#### Post Lunch at The Trailblazer Cafe

Nice visit to the **Texas Air Museum at Stinson field**. A lot of interesting items to look at. A great conclusion to a "The Great Stinson Field Thunderbird Fly-In.









Military or Gear Head - there was plenty to see for both. It is great there are those that have dedicated their time and efforts to preserve and put together this museum.







Ed Powers sent me this email this morning that was posted in yesterday's newspaper. I have not taken the local newspaper for years so I missed this, but Ed did not. On Saturday, after our lunch at the Trailblazer Cafe, and we get our Tbirds off the tarmac we will have the chance to visit this museum close by the Cafe. Some members in the past have, but I have never seen it. It is open on Saturdays til 4pm, so we will have time after our meeting for those who have never seen it to do so. Ed tells me it is one of those places he often takes military veterans to when they are visiting. Here is that article he sent.



**Ed Powers** 



Regards, Ray

#### "Snoopy...

The Texas Air Museum mascot's ears alert him when visitors arrive at Hangar 17. He welcomes them with his signature move — plopping on the floor for a belly rub.

He pads alongside guests, ears flopping and tongue lolling, as they take in the historic aviation displays. He ambles beneath roped-off airplanes and pre-World War I replicas, cut-away instrument panels and vintage cockpits youngsters clamber into as they make-believe they're flying into cloud-dusted skies.

After the guests are gone, his duties continue. Outside, long after closing, he tracks the scent of possums and raccoons, keeping the critters scrambling from the perimeter into the night.

Snoopy the Beagle's services are exclusive to the aviation archive tucked away on the South Side.







In June 2019, night security guard DuJuana Schroeder adopted the beagle/basset hound mix after daytime volunteers found the 6-week-old pup abandoned not far from a nearby cemetery. She ensured the dog had a veterinary exam, shots and a microchip to locate him if he was ever lost.

"He was mine from then on," Schroeder, 51, said. "There's nothing that dog can't do. He's a handyman at all costs. He's a real mellow dog."



**SNOOPY** 

Some volunteers call him "Snoop Dogg" because he's laid back like the popular rapper. But he's had a few rambunctious moments. Recently, Snoopy took a whirl in a helicopter.

Snoopy, the mascot for the Texas Air Museum at Stinson Municipal Airport, walks by a World War II-era Quonset hut display on Thursday. Snoopy was abandoned in the area and found a home at the museum.

United States Air Force veteran John Tosh founded the museum within sight of Stinson Municipal Airport. The military veteran started the unique collection so everyday people could learn the story of Texas and San Antonio's role in the development of military air power.





The hangar, packed wall to wall, has more than 100 displays and 16 airplanes. Four aircraft, including an F-4 Phantom II, are displayed outside. He has an average of 10 volunteers who help Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the building he leases from the city. Ninety percent of the volunteers are military veterans. Tosh said most financial support comes from admission fees and donations"





The South Texas Thunderbird Club visited the Texas Air Museum - Stinson Field at 1234 99th St. San Antonio, TX.

The museum is named for Katherine Stinson Otero, 1893-1977, an aviation pioneer whom left an indelible mark on aviation technology development and paved the way for women in early flight operations. Our visit included a short video highlighting Stinson's contribution to aviation as well as the museum's commitment to restoring, preserving, and sharing the history of military aviation with a primary focus on Texas aviation history. We also enjoyed a self-guided tour of the many well documented aviation artifacts from pre-WWI to current day. Noteworthy was one display case about the famed Tuskegee Airmen. One of our members related that his Uncle was assigned to that famous group. In fact, he



found a photo of his Uncle in the display case along with the supporting caption.

From the first time she saw the Wright Flyer airplanes, Katherine Stinson knew she wanted to become a pilot. But she had trouble finding someone to teach her how to fly because everyone told her she was too young and too small. Finally, when she found a pilot willing to train her, she not only excelled as a solo flyer, but she also became the fourth American woman licensed to fly.

Flying was a dangerous pursuit in 1912, and many future pilots were killed. But Katherine Stinson was determined to fly. Because she was a woman, she had to prove herself constantly. But she persisted, and soon she was a pioneer of the skies. She became known as "the Flying Schoolgirl", and she was as famous as any movie star.

Earning the nickname "the Flying Schoolgirl," Katherine performed at exhibitions in California, set distance records, flew in Japan, China, and Canada. Even when the U.S. Army would not allow her to fly in Europe, she used her exhibition skills to raise over two million dollars for the Red Cross. Throughout her life, Katherine Stinson's high morals and high spirits always prevailed, as she was never one to take no for an answer. Her adventurous spirit lives on in the many schools, airplanes, and monuments named after her and she remains an inspiration to us all.





Stinson racked up many "first's"- first precision flyer, first to do pre-flight inspections, and first to fly solo at night. She also invented night skywriting and amazed audiences in Japan and China. Together with her family, she established an airfield and flight school in San Antonio, Texas, and assembled and sold high-quality aircraft. Their school taught many of the pilots who flew in WWI. This moving, inspiring woman captures the proud spirt of a modern dreamer and daredevil who helped shape the art of aviation.

Katherine retired from aviation in 1920, after she contracted tuberculous, and married Miguel Antonio Otero Jr. She became an architect and pursued her new career just like she did with her first love of flying.

Submitted by Marilyn Carron South Texas Thunderbird Club of San Antonio

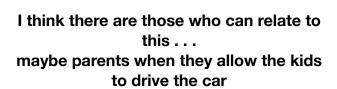


#### **CHECK THIS OUT!**

Back in 2017/2018 the STTC members visited Stinson Field. This is a pictures of the club members that attended that year. My-Oh-My . . .



### **A Little Humor**





### **Company Vehicles**

Company vehicles are unique in that they are designed along the lines of your personal vehicle but are modified in certain areas to provide exceptional service.

- 1. The travel faster in all gears, especially in reverse.
- 2. The accelerate at a phenomenal rate.
- 3. The have a much shorter braking distance.
- 4. The have a tighter turning circle.
- 5. Water, oil, battery, and tire pressure can go for months without checking.
- 6. Unusual and alarming engine and transmission noises are easily eliminated by adjusting the radio volume.
- 7. No security is required. They can be left anywhere unlocked with the keys in the ignition and the engine running.
- 8. The suspension can be repeatedly overloaded with no fear of damage.
- 9. The can be driven for over 200 miles with the oil light flashing.
- 10. The need less frequent cleaning, especially the inside.
- 11. The have specially designed transmissions with allow them to be shifted into reverse above 20 mph.
- 12. The can negotiate bumps and potholes at twice the rate of other vehicles.





## STTC Schedule of Events



Danny & Kathy V hosted



#### September 30th, 5th Saturday NOON.

Potluck Lunch at Danny & Kathy's Home again! They have invited us back! It has been suggested that we make another visit to a Seniors Living Facility prior to Lunch at a location in the general area of their home. In the event of inclement weather on that 5th Saturday of the Month, we will have our PotLuck in their big garage, with tables, fans, you name it.

#### CAN YOU BELIEVE IT - THEY ACTUALLY WANT US BACK!



OH, HMMMM
My taste buds are already salivating!







### STTC Schedule of Events



October 21st, - Saturday Cruise to John Hovas Hideout in Brookshire, Texas.

12 Texas surrounding area Tbird Clubs have been invited to join us this year to tour the fabulous Hideout. Last year we had 6 Tbird Clubs and about 250 Tbird owners attend. We hope to double that this year! We picked October for cooler weather and less other activities to compete with. Tbird Clubs were alerted to this cruise last year to allow them to schedule it in advance. More details upcoming. The Website link below shows some of last years activities. Click on the Hemi Hideout link indicated to see pictures and additional information. https://southtexasthunderbirdclub.com/

#### **November - No Scheduled Events - Due to Thanksgiving**



#### **December - Annual STTC Christmas Party-**

This years celebration will be at Little Italy on West Ave.





### **New STTC Club Members**

South Texas Thunderbird Club welcomes new members Thomas Reynolds & Thom Stephens.



**Beautiful 2005 Bronze 50th Anniversary Retrobird** 



A Ford dealership in Louisiana that originally sold the car in 2005 found its way back to the dealership in 2018. The car has been inspected by Jordan Ford here in San Antonio - other than a couple minor issues, has a clean bill of health. The "Bird" as been thoroughly detailed and looks fabulous.



### **New STTC Club Members**



Stan Leutbecher back into Club membership! Stan owns a beautiful 1966 Flairbird that back in 2018 I picked as Squarebirds Tbird Of The Month for February that year! Welcome back to the Club Stan!

Best Regards, Ray







## MARKETPLACE

### In The Market / On The Market



#### 1988 Ford Thunderbird Sport

5.0 V8, Power steering, power disc brakes, 4 speed auto overdrive. Power windows, power door locks, remote trunk release, remote gas door release, 15" alloy wheels, disc brakes, quadulink rear suspension (4 shocks, consol center with floor mounted shifter, tinted windows, factory dual exhaust, clear coat red medium metallic paint, AM/FM radio with cassette (original in box) now has Alpine AM/FM with CD player installed, new radiator, new fan clutch, new power steering pump, AC has original R12 freon and works great, heater works great, 90% tire tread ware left, front end recently checked and aligned, recent oil and filter change, 6 way power red velvet seats, remote control rearview mirrors

Asking \$9000.00 Overall, car is in great shape.

Any questions please call Jack Dowda at 210-862-7510

## 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.

On The Market



Call him for further details at 210-478-0560

if you have a serious interest in it.

#### 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









Thunderbirds Southwest 4635 E. State Highway 71 La Grange, TX 78945

https:thunderbirdsouthwest.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

## 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.penbrosroautotops.com www.penabrostrim@yahoo.com Southwest Chrome Plating 9023 IH -10 East Converse, Texas

Converse, Texas 210-**658-8087** 

Email: 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.





info@concoursautosalon.com

# PARTS / SERVICE



#### **List of Dealers for Parts**

- 58-66 Bird Nest 800-232-6378 www.tbirdparts.com
- 55-72 Classic Auto Parts 800-654-3247 www.classicautoparts.com
- 55-86 Concours Parts 800-722-0009 www.concourspartd.com
- 58-94 Thunderbird Ranch 715-884-6546 www.tbirdranch.com
- 55-56 Casco 800-374-0914 www.classictbird.com
- 55-56 Hill's Classic Cars 740-949-2217 www.hillsresto.com
- Rock Auto www.rockauto.com
- Hi-Tech Electronic/Radio Repair Service, (Modern ClassicT-Birds and more)
  Van Nuys, CA, 818-785-8085

Service@Hitechserv.com

or https://hitechserv.com/electronicsrepairs/oem-navigation-dvd-ed-charger-repair/

Rick Monroe "Straightnshinybygolly" Chrome Straightening & Polishing Phone: (210) 584-5856. Email: <a href="mailto:mongooserpm@gmail.com">mongooserpm@gmail.com</a>



# TUIRD USED PARTS





Finding used parts for some models of Thunderbirds can be a challenge - this is especially true for the "Retro" Birds (2002 – 2005). However STTC is privileged to have our own "Bloodhound Ray" also known as "The Prez". The following are a few words on Used Thunderbird Parts that may provide some guidance for some of our club members.

With the approval of Andrea & Steve your Favorite Bloodhound has had his nose to the ground looking for that 2005 50th Anniversary Retrobird that was lost to them about a year and a half ago. I have contacted about every known auto salvage yard around us for it, or any other Retrobird parts car. (Including Johns Salvage in Sequin. They have NO Retrobirds, but still have a lot of older Tbirds.) I have found that there is only ONE Retrobird listed available for parts at our local salvage yard. It is located at Roosevelt Wrench-A-Part 210-686-0365, a Red 2005 Retrobird only, Row 9. 10606 Roosevelt Avenue San Antonio, TX 78221. That leaves us with just the one local Retrobird I have found, as a source for used parts off it. It still has its engine in it.

With Andrea & Steve's approval, I contacted the insurance company that covered that Tbird. I know it was released from the City Auto Pound later on March 26, 2022 to the insurance company after it was picked up and moved there. However, the insurance company, after doing research on it, has not been able to determine the person or company it was sold to. So that Tbird, which had a lot of undamaged parts on it after the accident, is lost to us as a source of possible parts. IF Anyone knows where it is, please contact me!

Regarding other years of Tbird parts cars I have found the other salvage yards that DO have Tbird parts cars are: Pick-N-Pull, 11795 Applewhite Rd, 210-298-5420 ~ In their Classic Section, '64-'78 Tbirds, Open Wed, Sat, Sun, only, 8-noon.

The other one is Nicks Auto Parts 210-627-2032, '58 '59 '61 '62 Tbirds (the latter two years, not to much to pick from, but if you have one, you may want to see what they do have). 10407 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio, TX 78214, Hours: Closes 5:30 PM.

The other source for used parts is Tbird Bob Sinickas Bob ~ TbirdBob 2002-2005 Thunderbird Parts in Indiana! Veteran owned. Specializes in FEM and REM rebuilding. Has Rebuilt FEM's & REM's in stock, ready to ship! Also had 11 pages of Retrobird parts! <a href="http://www.TbirdBob.com">http://www.TbirdBob.com</a> (Secure Website) Contact: Bob Sinickas ~ 219-992-0953. Bob has collected wrecked Retrobirds from across the Nation and has 34 Retrobird parts cars to obtain used parts from. Although he has 2 Retrobirds from Texas, he does NOT have Andrea's Retrobird, unfortunately.

In looking for new replacement parts for Seth and now also for about-to-be new STTC member Tom Reynolds, 2005 50th Anniversary Retrobirds the Bloodhound has found this out. If you provide your last 8 numbers of your VIN # to Red McCombs, or Lincoln dealerships, they can enter them into a database, along with the part # or part name and tell you who has new parts across this Nation. By doing that, I was able to find a new electric fan replacement, (22 of new ones!) and a new water pump. So keep that in mind when you are looking for new Retrobird parts. They are becoming harder and harder to find.

Best Regards, Ray Clark STTC President, 210-875-1411



### 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

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

if you prefer.



### South Texas Thunderbird Club Support Material





STTC Brochure



STTC Club Cards

STTC Member Name Tags



STTC Website
Providing Club News, Activities, Membership, Gallery
www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com



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

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

South Central Regional Director
Brian Carron



#### Websites

www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com







#### www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com

**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
- VTCl dues are \$40.00. You can apply on their website: www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

Member info:	your name: first / last	birthday:
		•
	spouse's name:	
	anniversary date: VT	CI #:
	address: street city	
	telephone: hm ( ) cell ( _	]
	email:	
T-birds owned	l: year: model:	
	year: model:	
	year: model:	
	Waiver And Release From Liab	pility
	the South Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC), I am solely responsible	e for any damage or injury to third parties, or
	ing from anything connected with STTC Club activities. I agree to rin any claim, loss, damage, injury, or liability, that may be assei	
of my activity. Th	ne foregoing covenants of exculpation and indemnity are intended	to be and are complete, general and without
	include, but are not limited to, negligence (active or passive) or arry automobile liability insurance on the vehicle, meeting or exc	
	nce will be in force and effect for all STTC activities in which I partic vents in which I participate.	cipate. This release will be active for all STTC
CIUD activities/e	vents in which i participate.	
m	ember's signature:	date:
sp	oouse's signature:	date:
MAKE CHEC	KS PAYABLE TO: SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD (	CLUB
	on (with check) to: Danny Varella	
	27302 Park Loop Road	VIN TAGA

New Braunfels, TX 78132

for more club info, please contact:

Ray Clark rayclark07@att.net (210) 875-1411



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