

PITT BIRDS

Established 1970

**THUNDERBIRD
CLUB**

Visit: pittbirds.org

June 2020 Newsletter

OFFICERS:

President:	Marc Koszak	412-266-0562	alldetroitmuscle@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Wayne Bane	724-594-7482	dbane3413@comcast.net
Secretary:	Mary Beth Meyer	412-747-0769	mbmeyer321@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Longstreth	412-466-9091	gll1231@msn.com

RECENT EVENTS:

Celebrating 50 Years as a Chapter Club



Start of the Tour at Phipps Conservatory



Loyalhanna Dam Park

Thunderbird Appreciation Day Tour Sunday, May 17th

Since we were no longer under the "Stay and Home" restriction, we planned a driving tour. We took the back roads and briefly stopped at the Kiski School, a beautiful private boarding school. Our next stop was the Loyalhanna Dam Park. We had an opportunity to chat and exchange stories while maintaining our safe six-foot social distance. Our final stop was at a couple of *gourmet* fast food restaurants to order a take-out lunch. We re-assembled at an adjacent shopping center parking lot to enjoy the lunch and continue conversations while maintaining a safe social distance from each other. Considering the restrictions, this worked, and everyone enjoyed the tour.



Kiski Prep School



Loyalhanna Dam

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SNPJ Car Cruise

Sunday, June 14th

Members will meet to join in the festivities at the SNPJ Lodge in Imperial, PA. Food and drinks will be available. Plan to meet at the Oakdale Mini Mart at 11:30 AM.

GPS: 7520 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071.

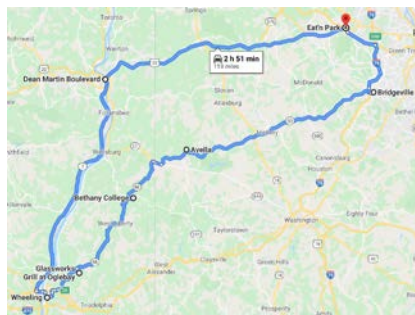
The location of the Car Cruise is at 255 W. Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Beth Meyer at 412-747-0769 or mbmeyer321@hotmail.com.

Driving Tour: Robinson Twp. to Steubenville, Wheeling, and Oglebay Park

Sunday, June 28th at noon

Plan to meet at the Eat n' Park in Robinson Twp. **GPS:** 100 Park Manor Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

We will leave at noon and travel west to Steubenville, then head south along the Ohio River Scenic Byway to Wheeling and onto Oglebay Park. We will have a late lunch at the park restaurant. We will continue our tour to Bethany College and Bridgeville. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091.



PVGP Homestead Waterfront Cruise

Tuesday, July 21st 3:00 - 9:00 PM

While most of the PVGP events for 2020 have been canceled, the Cruise is still scheduled. Plan to meet at the Homestead Waterfront Center in Homestead.

GPS: 500 E Waterfront Dr, Homestead, PA 15120

There will be 500 to 600 cars on display. The Pitt Birds will have a hospitality tent as a gathering point on the lawn across from the Commonwealth Bank. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091.

Pitt Birds Picnic

Sunday, August 30th

With the PVGP race weekend activities canceled, we had to find a new location for the club picnic. The tentative plans are to have the picnic in conjunction with the Moon Cruise. We will use the same pavilion we used in past years. The club will provide the entrées and beverages and we ask that members bring a side dish, dessert or salad. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Longstreth at 412-466-9091.

Donations to the PVGP Charities

As you are aware, due to the Covid 19 issues, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix was forced to cancel the race weekend events in Schenley Park. Each year our annual Pitt Birds picnic is held in Schenley Park.

The PVGP charities benefit individuals in the Pittsburgh region with Autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2019 the PVGP donated \$351,500 bringing the PVGP's 37-year total to \$5,864,000.

The Pitt Birds have always supported the PVGP and its charities through donations and registrations.

Would you consider making a donation to the PVGP on behalf of the Pitt Birds? If you choose to make a donation please make your check payable to the **PVGP** and mail your donation to:

PITT BIRDS

1723 Pleasant Avenue

West Mifflin, PA 15122

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry or Barbara Longstreth at 412-466-9091.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

**Carlisle -
All Fords Nationals:**

NEW DATE

July 31 – August 2, 2020

Join the International Thunderbird Club
at the Carlisle Ford – Nationals.

For details visit: www.carlisleevents.com/carlisle-events

For hotel reservations: www.countryinns.com/itc2019



PVGP – July 25-26, 2020

The registration cost after March 1 is \$40.00,
and \$50.00 at the gate. To register online, visit:

<http://www.pvgrp.org/carshow/schenley/>

and click on the **showclix** button.

Contact Jeff Longstreth for any questions.

Canceled

**Classic Thunderbird Club International
Convention Sarasota, FL April 20-24, 2021**



CTCI International Convention
Sarasota, Florida, April 2021
Hosted by Trail Birds of SW FL

For information, visit: <https://www.ctci.org/events/>

Contact Info: Jeff Barlow, Convention Chair: Phone 865-705-7941

Email: fifty7bird@yahoo.com

Hotel: HYATT REGENCY, SARASOTA, FLORIDA 1-877-803-7534

Itinerary:

- Tours include Sarasota City Tour, LeBarge Boat Tour, Ringling Museum and Sarasota Jungle Gardens.
- Thunderbird Concours and Banquet.

International Thunderbird Club Convention
Detroit MI September 17-20, 2020



For convention information, contact:

Joann Rodriguez

WWTC President

248-719-0160

joannbill801@comcast.net

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, 5801 Southfield Fwy, Detroit, MI 48228.
313-336-3340.

Itinerary Details will be listed later.

FOR SALE:



2002 Thunderbird
Contact: Jan Good
412-366-1991
jang125@verizon.net
\$21,500

Thunderbird Blue, with full blue and black interior. Matching blue hardtop, hardtop dolly and black boot. Excellent condition, no dings or scratches. Everything works on it as it should. 34,907 miles.



2002 Thunderbird
Contact: Warren Smith
724-776-4780
Jsandws@hotmail.com
\$21,500

Inspiration Yellow with full yellow and black interior, matching yellow hardtop, hardtop dolly and black boot, new Michelin Pilot tires, 13,500 miles. Western PA owned all its life, never seen snow, caught in rain a few times.



1957 Thunderbird
Contact: Ron George
724-784-0316
rondoavanti@gmail.com
\$40,000

Starmist Blue, rebuilt engine, new Goodyear radials, restored in 2002, Kelsey Hayes wire wheels, new top and interior. No hardtop.



Men's and Ladies' Golf Shirts:

Turquoise / Thunderbird blue golf shirts with the Pitt Birds logo.
Contact Mary Beth Meyer at 412-818-5898.
The price is \$25.00. Shipping and handling to your address is an additional \$5.00.

Visit and Join the Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club Facebook Page



Please visit the Pitt Birds Facebook page, post a comment or a photo of your Thunderbird and see what others have posted.

Visit: www.facebook.com/groups/1558299460953848/

Interested in Joining an International Thunderbird Club?

The Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club is a chapter club with the Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) and the International Thunderbird Club (ITC). Both CTCI and ITC have regional and international events, provide excellent technical advice, publish bi-monthly magazines, offer vendor sourcing, and articles about other local clubs. Membership information to CTCI or ITC can be found by visiting the following web sites.

Classic Thunderbird Club International: www.ctci.org

Then click on "Become a Member" on the Home page.

International Thunderbird Club: www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com

Then click on the "Membership" button on the Home page.

Confessions of an elderly “mechanic”

By Michael Lamm, Hemmings Daily



I've been 18 for most of my adult life. But then last spring, I suddenly woke up to my real age, 83, when our family physician, Dr. Walt, diagnosed me with pneumonia.

I'd never been sick a day in my life, and I figured—still convinced that I was 18—that pneumonia didn't sound all that terrible. But my nose wouldn't turn off, and about a week after I got the diagnosis, I started getting these achy pains in every bone, muscle, tendon and joint in my body. So Nurse JoAnne, my good wife, told me to go back to Dr. Walt and let him figure out what's what.

Dr. Walt poked and prodded, then shook his head and promptly ordered a bunch of scans and lab tests.

I told Dr. Walt, “The tests won't show anything, because I'm a healthy 18-year-old and have never been sick, ever.”

“We'll see,” said Dr. Walt.

Surprise, surprise! What the tests showed was that I had blood clots in both legs—totally unexpected—and Dr. Walt immediately put me on a blood thinner, Eliquis. That's when I realized I wasn't 18 anymore.

In a previous column, I happened to mention that now, at age 83, I'm still fortunate enough to be able to work on cars. That's been my longtime hobby—tinkering and fixing—and yes, I do still indulge.

Yet as you might suspect, tinkering is not the same at 83 as it was at 18. Certain realities have crept in, some of which remind me of my mortality. And with the realization that I'm definitely 83, mortality does come up as a topic of discussion.

I should back up a bit and mention that in the year 2000 I decided to sell all four of my hobby cars. I'd owned them for much too long, and I wasn't learning anything new. So I sold all four—two Panteras, a 1951 Hudson Hornet sedan, and a 1967 Camaro convertible—and decided to buy interesting cars, one at a time. The plan was to keep each of my new acquisitions for six months, work on it, learn from it, and then sell it again. Whether I made or lost money wasn't a huge concern and, as it's happened, I've about broken even over the years.

I should mention, too, that I put the word “mechanic” in quotation marks up top for a reason. I'm not really a mechanic in any professional sense. I'm much too slow, and that's usually intentional. I like to spread a job out, work on a car slowly, think about what I'm doing or should do, savor my successes and lament my failures. I do a lot of lamenting. But basically I'm in it for the fun, and it is a hobby that can give me a great deal of pleasure—has for decades.

So the cars I currently own are a 1964 Jaguar E-Type roadster (OTS), which I bought in 2003 and will drive to the old folks' home; and a 2000 Porsche Boxster S that I bought several months ago for the engine. I wanted just the engine at that time, because a previous Boxster had developed a leaky head, and I'd been advised to replace the old engine rather than try to fix it. Thus this second Boxster.

Continued on the next page.

Confessions of an elderly “mechanic”

Continued



But the second Boxster ran strong, and because I'd been quoted from \$4500 to \$9000 to swap engines (a job beyond my skills), I decided to sell the first car and keep this second one as my everyday driver. It did need some work—new front rotors and pads, rear control arms and drop links, oxygen sensor, hood and trunk struts, window regulator, brake light switch, two new horns, top cables—all of which I joyously installed, so I haven't regretted keeping this car. It still needs tinkering from time to time, which suits me fine.

As for the E-Type, the radiator header tank rusted through from the inside after 55 years, and I recently replaced it with a new one. Also, something went wonky with the charging system. The voltage regulator tested okay, so I removed the generator, lightly sanded the commutator and armature, put in new brushes, and it now charges like a champ.

Although I currently feel better than okay, I have noticed that my post-diagnostic tinkering demands certain concessions. At 83, I have to be a lot more careful about how I work on cars.

It used to be that I'd think nothing of skinning a knuckle or cutting a finger. Those sort of things didn't bother me much. Now, though, with the blood thinner, I try to avoid cuts and bruises of any sort. I wear these awful Kevlar sleeves when I work, and I'm using a heavier grade of gloves.

JoAnne has loaded up my workbench with sterile pads, cotton swabs and adhesive tape, just in case. Plus I now always carry my cell phone when I work alone, which is most of the time.

I notice, too, that I'm not as physically strong as I used to be. At 18—when I really was 18—I could toss 100-pound bags of horse oats onto car fenders, no problem. Today, a 35-pound carton of books makes me grunt. I feel my lack of strength especially in my arms, hands and fingers, as when I'm pinching pliers or replacing a wheel.

My knees also remind me of my age. If I'm squatting or sitting on the floor, I now have to grab hold of something to help me stand up.

Nor are my eyes what they used to be. I'm much more dependent on drop cords and those wonderful little LED flashlights—the type that can shine down into hidden crevices.

And those 12-hour days don't happen anymore. I *can* still put in that sort of time, but I really don't have to so I don't. It's not so much a lack of stamina, but I like to take a little recreational nap after lunch. And my muscles remind me that, after some periods of physical labor, they'll ache the next day. Or I'll get cramps in my hands—another side effect of pushing too hard. The body lets a person know when too much is too much.

So the abrupt realization that I'm no longer 18...that working on cars at 83 demands certain concessions and a generous dose of humility...has shown me that the automobile and the human anatomy share an aging process. Both deteriorate with time. And while cars are usually restorable, people aren't, but good maintenance and a pleasurable hobby help keep the body young, relatively speaking.

Pitt Birds 2020 Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Host
TOURS		
Tour to Railroaders Memorial Museum and Lenny's Classic Car Collection in Altoona, PA CANCELED	April 18th	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
CTCI National Convention CANCELED	May 4-9	Dwight Good
Thunderbird Appreciation Day	May 17th	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
Washington Wild Things Baseball Game CANCELED	May	Marc Koszak
Driving Tour to Ogelbay Park WV	June 28th	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
Dinner Hosted by Richard and Susie Chene POSTPONED	June 28th	Richard and Susie Chene
Washington Trolley Museum and Car Show CANCELED	June 28th	??
PVGP Races at Pitt Race CANCELED	July 18-19	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
PVGP Homestead Waterfront Car Cruise	July 21st	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
PVGP Downtown Parade and Plaza Display CANCELED	July 22nd	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
All Fords Nationals event at Carlisle DATE CHANGE	July 31-August 2	Jerry Longstreth
Tour to Walnut Creek	August 15th	Bob and Betty Macek
Pitt Birds Picnic - Moon Park DATE CHANGE	August 30th	Jerry and Barbara Longstreth
ITC National Convention	September 17-20	Bart and Vera Bartasavich
Kentuck Knob and Wine Tour	October 5th	Ed and Debbie Kaczowski
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Nationality Rooms	Oct - Nov	Wayne Bane
Pitt Birds Autumn Meeting	November 14th	Marc Koszak
CRUISES		
CCAC Car Cruise CANCELED	May 9th	Mary Beth Meyer
SNPJ Car Cruise DATE CHANGE	June 14h	Mary Beth Meyer
Mingle on Main Car Cruise, Saxonburg CANCELED	May 21st	Marc Koszak
Beaver Car Cruise	August 1st	Jon and Joann Strebeck
Moon Area Car Cruise	August 30th	Mary Beth Meyer
Back to the 50's Car Cruise	September 4-6	??
Quaker Steak and Lube Car Cruise	??	Donna Shubert
Zelienople Car Cruise and Fall Festival	October 10th	??