

# July 2015 Newsletter

**PITT BIRDS**

Established 1970

**THUNDERBIRD  
CLUB**

Visit: [pittbirds.org](http://pittbirds.org)

## OFFICERS:

President:	Wayne Bane	724-594-7482	<a href="mailto:dbane3413@comcast.net">dbane3413@comcast.net</a>
Vice President:	Peter Sarkis	412-310-1589	<a href="mailto:sarkis2004@comcast.net">sarkis2004@comcast.net</a>
Secretary:	Mary Beth Meyer	412-747-0769	<a href="mailto:mbmeyer321@hotmail.com">mbmeyer321@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jerry Longstreth	412-466-9091	<a href="mailto:gll1231@msn.com">gll1231@msn.com</a>

## **RECENT EVENTS:** 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Thunderbird Celebration Dearborn Michigan June 25-28<sup>th</sup>

Nineteen members celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Dearborn MI. Our Thunderbirds revved up their engines and members met in Cranberry to fuel our bodies with an early breakfast. Unfortunately Carl and Carol's Thunderbirds would not start at home because of a dead battery. We were on our journey before 7:00 AM. We had to arrive at noon because the first tour started at 1:00 PM. Fortunately Carl and Carol arrived with us with their Thunderbird and a new battery. Our first tour was to the Meurer Auto Museum. We viewed several unique and highly desirable cars along with several memorabilia items. One Friday, we toured the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate and Henry Ford's first factory, the Piquette Plant. Saturday was supposed to be the big day. We were to participate in a grand display of Thunderbirds on the Ford headquarter grounds. Because of the heavy rain and high winds, the show was cancelled. We took this opportunity to have a brief meeting to review the plans for the "Celebrate 60 Years" show at the PVGP. After the meeting we decided to go to the Henry Ford Museum. Although this was not on the schedule, it turned into a nice event. On Sunday, we checked out, said our good byes, and headed for Greenfield Village. Visiting the village was like stepping back in time. We viewed 83 authentic homes and structures of famous people. We took a train ride around the village and rode in a real Model T Ford. After the visit, we re-assembled and headed for Pittsburgh. This was a memorable trip and we thank the organizers of the event. Congratulations to Pete for receiving the "Golden Key Award".



# RECENT EVENTS: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Thunderbird Celebration Dearborn Michigan - Continued



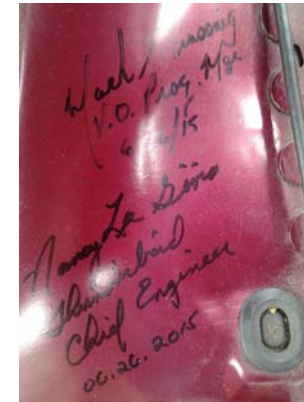
Tour of Henry Ford's first factory, the Piquette Plant



We even had time for a brief meeting.



Tour of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate



Mary Beth Meyer got her car signed by Nancy Lee Gioia, Chief Engineer of the 2002 Ford Thunderbird Program and Mark Grassnig, Ford Launch Manager.



Meurer Automobilia Collection



Banquet Dinner Dance

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

# Thunderbird will be the Spotlight Car at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 16-19, 2015



The Pitt Birds will be having its annual picnic as part of the Celebrate 60 Years of Thunderbirds event at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Thunderbird will be honored as the 2015 Spotlight Car and will be the centerpiece of the 2,000 car international car show. This is a national Thunderbird event. Please join us in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA on July 18-19, 2015. You can register to take your Thunderbird onto the race track for a parade lap during the opening ceremonies on Sunday from 11:00 AM till noon. This is one of the unique and special parts of being the Spotlight Car. Nearly 100,000 spectators will cheer you on as you take a full lap of the 2.3 mile circuit. Afterward you return to the Spotlight Car fairway to enjoy the afternoon races and car shows.

### Activities Include:

- **Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** – PVGP Rallye. Register at [www.pvgp.org/rallye](http://www.pvgp.org/rallye)
- **Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12<sup>th</sup>** – Historic Races at Pitt Race, visit: [www.pvgp.org/historics](http://www.pvgp.org/historics)
- **Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>** – Car Cruise at the Homestead Waterfront. The cost is \$5.00 per car, visit: [www.pvgp.org/cruise](http://www.pvgp.org/cruise)
- **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** – Downtown Parade and Car Display. The cost is \$10.00 per car. Register at: [www.pvgp.org/parade](http://www.pvgp.org/parade).
- **Thursday Evening, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM** – Welcome Dinner at Max and Erma's. Contact Jerry Longstreth if you plan to attend.
- **Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>** - Countryside Tour to the Flight 93 Memorial and lunch at the Jean Bonnet Tavern. Lunch is \$20.00 per person and must be paid by **July 9, 2015**. Please send the check payment to: Pitt Birds, 1723 Pleasant Avenue, West Mifflin, PA 15122 2857.
- **Friday Evening, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM** - Banquet Dinner at the Comfort Inn Banquet Facility in RIDC Harmarville, PA. The cost of the dinner is \$30.00 per person and must be paid on or before **July 9, 2015**. Please include your choice of dinner; **English Style Scrod, or Chicken Marsala**. Please send the check payment to: Pitt Birds, 1723 Pleasant Avenue, West Mifflin, PA 15122 2857.
- **Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** - Participate in a special Thunderbird Display at the Schenley Park golf course, view the qualifying races, and tour the pit and paddock area. Please register with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. The registration is \$30.00 for the weekend and includes Saturday and Sunday entry. The link is: [www.pvgp.org/spotlight-car](http://www.pvgp.org/spotlight-car). When the web site page opens, click on the button that states "Click Here to Register and Pay Online". This will take you to the registration form.
- **Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** – The picnic and car show continue as you view vintage racing and participate in a parade lap of the race track with your Thunderbird. If you would like to participate in the Parade Lap of the Track, the registration is \$30.00.
- A picnic lunch, hosted by the Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.

Proceeds benefit the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Valley School.

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

# Upcoming Events:

## Canton Classic Car Museum Saturday, August 15th

The Pitt Birds will meet at Denny's Restaurant in Cranberry, PA at 9:00 AM. The restaurant location is at the intersection of Route 19 and Freedom Road. We will depart for Canton, OH at 9:30 AM, and arrive at the museum at 11:30 AM. After touring the museum we will travel a short distance to Pete's Restaurant for a late lunch. Our arrival time back in Cranberry is about 5:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Rich and Ann Augustine at 724-468-3202.

# Calendar of Events:

- Pitt Birds Picnic at the PVGP July 18-19<sup>th</sup>  
'Celebrate 60 Years of Thunderbird Excitement'  
Details on page 4 of this newsletter
- Buffalo Thunderbird Show, Buffalo, NY August 9<sup>th</sup>  
Hosted by the Buffalo Classic Thunderbird Club
- Auto Museum, Canton, OH August 15<sup>th</sup>  
Hosted by Rich and Ann Augustine
- Tygart Lake Dam, Grafton, WV September 12<sup>th</sup>  
Hosted by Pete and Karen Sarkis

*October is open and we are asking for suggestions.*



**INTERNATIONAL THUNDERBIRD CLUB**  
**22nd Convention - August 2015**  
**Waukesha, Wisconsin**  
**AUGUST 18th THRU 23rd**  
 Visit the Convention Web Site for Additional Details and the  
 Registration Form: [www.itc-thunderbird-convention.com](http://www.itc-thunderbird-convention.com)



**BIRDS OF ENCHANTMENT**  
**2015 Region 6 Convention**  
**August 26-30**  
 Sheraton Uptown Hotel,  
 Albuquerque, NM

Go to:  
[www.Thunderbirdsnm.com](http://www.Thunderbirdsnm.com)

Hosted by the  
 Pajarito Thunderbird Club

Celebrating  
**60**  
 years  
 of the Ford  
 Thunderbird

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Current Membership: **72 Member Families**

**Welcome New Members :** *Bill and Pat Ray*

**Wishing a Rapid Recovery to:** *Dolly Bane  
Richard Chene  
Dwight Good*

## **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](http://www.ctci.org)  
Then click on "Become a Member" on the Home page.

International Thunderbird Club: [www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com](http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com)  
Then click on the "Membership" button on the Home page.

## **TREASURY:**

Balance as of July 1, 2015: **\$3,740.07**

## **FOR SALE:**



### **1957 Thunderbird:**

Contact: Jeff Spirer  
412-310-0810 or  
jkspirer@verizon.net

**\$38,000**

Black with Black and White Interior, Excellent Condition, 63,000 miles, 312 V8, Automatic, Air conditioning, P/S, P/W, Wire Wheels.



### **2005 Thunderbird:**

Contact: Pat Crossan  
724-677-0119

**\$32,000**

Torch Red, tan interior, includes custom wheels and tires, new bra (still in bag), car cover, roof hoist, roof rack, tonneau cover, have original wheels and tires, **only 2,500 miles.**

### **Golf Shirts:**

If you would like to purchase a Turquoise / Thunderbird blue golf shirt with the Pitt Birds logo, contact Wayne and Dolly Bane at: 724.226.0788. The price is \$30.00 (\$32.00 for XXL).

### **Tee Shirts:**

With the Pitt Birds club logo are for sale for \$15.00 each. Shipping and handling to your address is an additional \$3.00. Limited supply remaining, sizes available; 1 large and 5 medium. Contact Ann Augustine at: 724-468-3202.

# Thunderbird Running Too Hot?

*Reprinted from Thunderbird Owners of New York*

Everyone seems to always be worried about their early birds running too hot in the summertime. There are a few things that can be done to solve the problem, that's if there is a problem.

1. You can install an aftermarket temp. gauge and bypass the dash gauge.
2. Check to make sure there is the 1' spacer behind the water pump. It is possible that in the life of the car, a passenger engine was installed that doesn't require a spacer.
3. Install a new thermostat 160 degrees.
4. Install a 6 blade fan.
5. Make sure the fan fits mid-way into the shroud - (engine placement seems to vary quite a bit). If it doesn't, you can buy a spacer of a different size to move the location of the fan. This is the spacer that goes between the fan and the water pump.
6. Improve air flow, block the hood scoop, remove the 2 mud shields down on the frame and make sure the little round access panel behind the grill is in place.
7. Make sure you're getting a good spark advance. This needs to be checked with a timing light. Many times the vacuum diaphragm goes bad. This will make the engine run hot.
8. Check that the heat riser on the right exhaust manifold is opening easily. If it stays closed, or partially closed it makes the right engine bank run hotter than the left.
9. Another thing you can do is to install an electric pusher fan in front of the radiator. It's not a hard job to do and it doesn't show at all.

All of the above will work as long as your engine block is not all loaded with rust and your radiator is clean of "sludge". ir



# 2015 PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX CAR SHOW AT SCHENLEY PARK

*Join 2,000 Show Cars - July 18 & 19 Weekend*

Cars of all makes and years are welcome. Use this form to pre-register or go to [www.pvgrp.org/schenley](http://www.pvgrp.org/schenley) Pre-registered entries receive a complimentary PVGP Race Program and dash plaque at the gate. Enjoy picnic atmosphere on the golf course with no judging. Your \$30 donation benefits the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Valley School and includes admission to Car Shows & Vintage Races on both Saturday and Sunday. Main gate at Schenley Drive/Forbes Avenue opens each day at 9:30 AM and cars are displayed from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Event held rain or shine. Italian marque of the Year, British Cars, BMW and Porsche must use separate form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Car Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

<b>International Car Show Registration</b> - \$30 donation for the weekend	\$ _____
Includes Saturday and Sunday entry, PVGP Race Program and Dash Plaque.	
<b>Parade Lap of the Track</b> - Sunday, July 19th - \$30 donation	\$ _____
<b>"In Spirit" donation for our charities</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

Mail-in registration deadline is July 10, online registration deadline is July 16 - after that all participants must pay at gate. You can register & pay online with credit card at [www.pvgrp.org](http://www.pvgrp.org) or complete this form and send with a check made payable to the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association. Entry fee is tax deductible.

**Mail to: PVGP Car Show Registration • Box 536078 • Pittsburgh, PA 15253-5902**

**Waiver of Liability – Required**

The undersigned hereby releases the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association (PVGPA) and the City of Pittsburgh from any responsibility for any and all damages and personal injuries sustained by me or my property from any cause whatsoever, while driving to and from and while participating in the International Car Shows It is understood that this release is given in consideration for permission to said event.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_