

PITT BIRDS

Established 1970

**THUNDERBIRD
CLUB**

Visit the Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club website:
pittbirds.org
Visit and Join the Pitt Birds
Thunderbird Club Facebook Page

October 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

Celebrating 50 Years as a Chapter Club

RECENT EVENTS:



Autumn Leaf Tour to the Laurel Mountains Saturday, October 3rd

The tour started on a beautiful sunny morning in Pleasant Hills, PA. Twenty-two members were in attendance. On our way to the Laurel Mountains we met three other members. With the Covid-19 restaurant restrictions we thought it would be difficult to find a sit-down restaurant to accommodate all of us; we made other plans. Our stop for lunch was at a small shopping plaza that had three *Gourmet Restaurants*, Subway, Nate Doggs Bottle Shop, and Fox's Pizza Den. We had our choice to dine-in or dine outside. Our next stop was a short drive to the Christian W Klay Winery. The winery had just reopened one week ago and was now able to serve samples and sell wine. We still could not stand at the bar and be served. We sampled a great variety of wines outside on the patio. After several samples and purchases of wonderful wine we were off to our last stop. We traveled through the mountains and valleys and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. The leaves had just started to change their colors. As we arrived at Ohiopyle State Park we found it very crowded. We were able to find parking in of all places, the RV parking area. We strolled through the park, viewed the waterfalls from the observation deck, and visited the Nature Center. At the conclusion of the day, we headed home. Some took the PA Turnpike and others took the long way home to enjoy more of the scenery. The Pitt Birds thank Jerry and Barbara Longstreth for planning this tour.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Zelienople Trunk or Treat Car Cruise Sunday, October 11th at noon

There is a car cruise in Zelienople, PA this Sunday. If you would like to attend, the address is: **100 Perry Hwy, Harmony, PA 16037**. This is in the shopping center on Route 19 just north of Zelienople. The event will run from noon until 3:00 PM. This is a “Trunk or Treat” event so bring some candy or goodies for the younger attendees.

Future 2020 Events:

Because of the Covid-19 cautions and restrictions the Pitt Birds will not have any additional events in 2020 and early 2021.

We will not have a November meeting and we do not have any plans for a Holiday Dinner in January 2021.

Please stay tuned for emails or phone calls announcing any changes for upcoming meetings or events.

15 little-known facts about the movie

"American Graffiti" Click on the link below:

https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2020/07/10/15-little-known-facts-about-american-graffiti?refer=news&utm_source=edaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-09-16

“Eye Candy”

Tour the NPD Car Collection in Ocala, FL.

Click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfU-THMvh9c>



CTCI Free Membership Test Drive

The Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) is happy to announce a Free Test Drive offer for the balance of the 2020 calendar year. With more of us sticking close to home, this is a great way for you to become a part of CTCI and get the great tech tips and virtual assistance with your Thunderbird that you always wanted!

As a member you will also receive valuable CTCI organizational updates the CTCI Board sends out, via constant contact, keeping you informed about our efforts to enhance the future of your organization. You can also get information on the CTCI Concours Regional and International events and learn how CTCI can help promote your local Chapter events.

Check out the new [CTCI website](#), get great tech tips, promote your local Chapter in Around the Aviary, Submit your car for “On The T-bird Trail” and start connecting with other CTCI members near and far! Your membership for 2020 will include the Nov/Dec issue of the Early Bird Magazine, CTCI Tech Tips, updates on CTCI Regional and International events, and in-person interactions with CTCI members across the country!

From tech tips, to local events and parts for sale, your Thunderbird will benefit from your CTCI membership! CTCI hopes that you enjoy your Test Drive Membership and that you decide to stick around as a member for 2021 and beyond!

To sign-up, please visit: <https://ctcitestdrive.com/> and complete the form.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current Membership: **63 Members**

Welcome New Members: Ken and Barbara Stewart
Red 1956 Thunderbird
Waynesburg, PA



It is with deep regret that we inform you that past club member, Bill Lister, passed away on September 23, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Darlene and their family.

Nomination of Officers:

The Pitt Birds are soliciting nomination suggestions for the following offices in this club:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The position for the Newsletter Editor is also available.

If you are interested or know of someone that is interested, please contact Marc Koszak at 412-266-0562 or alldetroitmuscle@yahoo.com

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 "Membership" on the Home page.

International Thunderbird Club: www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com
Then click on "Membership" on the Home page.

2021 Dues Payment:

If you have not paid your 2021 dues, please plan to submit your \$20.00 dues payment by December 31, 2020.

Please make the dues payment of **\$20.00** to:

Pitt Birds
1723 Pleasant Avenue
West Mifflin, PA 15122 2857

FOR SALE:



2002-2005 Soft Boot Tonneau Cover
Purchased from Thunderbird Concepts. Black in color, excellent condition.
\$100.00

Contact Wayne Bane at 724-594-7482 or dbane3413@comcast.net



2003 - 2005 Thunderbird Complete Exhaust
Converter back, 24,000 miles, excellent shape.
\$175.00

Contact Robert Willcock
412-427-1387 Cell, 412-771-5827 Home
Putwill21@yahoo.com



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.

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
\$35,900

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



1957 Thunderbird
Contact: Carol Vivaldi
724-939-7306
Vivaldici@gmail.com
\$29,000 FIRM

312 V-8, Automatic, Coral Sand w/White Hardtop and Black Convertible Top, Power Steering, Power Windows, Radial Tires, Radio works well, Have original Town & Country Radio, 44,000 Miles, Original California Car in good condition.



1955 Thunderbird
Contact: Nick Aukscunas
724-462-1987
naukscunas@comcast.net
Asking **\$11,000**

P5FH114738 Solid body and underneath. New floor pans , lower rear quarters and inner/outer rocker panels installed. New gas tank installed and new aluminum radiator still in the box. Bird ran fine up till 10 years ago when it was placed in dry storage. Engine fires up but won't keep running. Automatic. No convertible top. Interior complete but not restored. Text or call for more details and photos. Industry, PA 15052

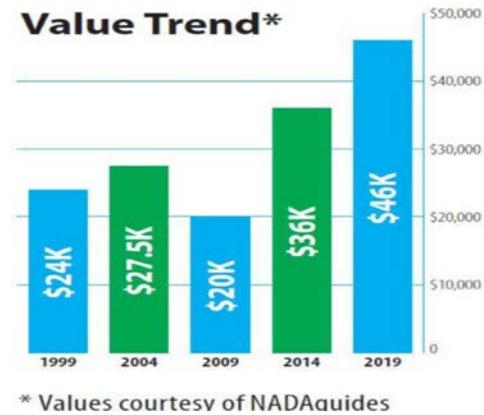
1955 Ford Thunderbird *By David Conwill, Hemmings*



Was there a more desirable new car in 1955 than the two-seat Ford Thunderbird? It's doubtful. Dowdy Mopar was only just getting into the styling-and-performance game with its "100 Million Dollar Look." Chevrolet still had its screen-headlamp Corvette, but it had overestimated the public's reaction to spartan accommodations and hopped-up six-cylinder power. Not even the addition of the new V-8 for 1955 could buoy its slow sales, and it was close to being canceled entirely.

Ford, however, had hit a home run with the T-Bird. It wasn't a serious sporting effort, but it was sporty enough thanks to a 193-hp (198-hp when coupled with the automatic transmission), 292-cu.in. V-8. Plus it came with creature comforts like roll-up windows and a lift-off hardtop. Perhaps better, from a marketing standpoint, the Thunderbird's styling evoked that of regular Ford passenger cars and vice versa. At a base price of \$2,444, it was the most expensive Ford-badged passenger car offering for the 1955 model year, short of a Country Squire wagon—and that was before adding in options like overdrive, automatic, or the soft-top.

The magic of Ford's first halo car barely faded, too. Like the 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, the T-Bird was in high demand as a used car throughout the 1960s. Nobody seriously thinks the young woman mentioned in the 1964 Beach Boys hit "*Fun, Fun, Fun*" had actually borrowed her father's Bullet 'Bird to blow off the library in favor of the hamburger stand, do they?



In later decades, the two-seat Thunderbird, like the '57 Chevy and the '59 Cadillac, was easy shorthand to evoke "The Fifties" and thus it became one of the first collector cars of that decade.

Such early and strong support for the Thunderbird made us wonder how they had fared from a value standpoint. Our initial speculation, based on casual observation of the market, was that values had plateaued in the 1990s and remained fairly constant, but to confirm or refute that guess, we turned to our trusty value guides.

The most recent pegs an average value of around \$46,000 before factoring in those aforementioned options—overdrive adds a little over \$400 to the overall value and the soft-top almost \$2,000. We then looked backward to the end of 2009 to see how they had done in the intervening decade: \$20,000 for the same car. Back in 1999, the value is a little higher: \$24,000.

Was '09 a fluke? After all, it was right after the economy collapsed from the whole mortgage-backed securities fiasco. To split the difference, we pulled out our old guides from 2004 and 2014. The 2004 value turned out to be \$27,500 and, in 2014, the same '55 Thunderbird, without any value-changing options, had a reported average value of \$36,000.

That reflects a steady, but not outrageous gain in value for one of the most recognizable automobiles of the mid-20th century. It suggests to us that interest in these cars remains strong and while you're not going to get rich buying and flipping 1955 Thunderbirds, you're also highly unlikely to lose money at resale time. Best of all, you'll have a competent and handsome 1950s grand tourer in your garage.