



# Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio



Newsletter

JULY 2020

**Notice: All club meetings are cancelled until further notice**

**Calendar of Car Events:** Below is the current status of various Thunderbird events.

**VTCI Events:** The following VTCI events have been cancelled

1. South Central Regional Meet, New Orleans, June 11-13, 2020.
2. VTCI International Convention, Portland Oregon, August 11-16, 2020.

**Other Thunderbird Club:** The following is the known status of other Thunderbird club events.

1. The International Thunderbird Club (ITC) convention: Cannot confirm if convention scheduled for September 17-20, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan is still on.
2. The Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) International Convention, rescheduled to April 20-24, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida.

**VTCI Newsletter Contest Update:** As reported in an earlier newsletter, our chapter submitted an entry for the annual newsletter awards contest. Winners were to be announced at the International Convention in August. To date no word has been received as to when and how winners will be announced since the International convention was cancelled.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries in May:** Looks like there will be a lot of birthday and anniversary celebrating going on in July. Wishing you all a joyous time on your special day. We also send a belated Happy Anniversary wish to David & Susan Menke who celebrated their 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### July Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup>: Susan Menke  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Jim Lenz  
4<sup>th</sup>: Karl Eby  
13<sup>th</sup>: Jackie Allen  
20<sup>th</sup>: Tom Tirey  
29<sup>th</sup>: Meritta Eby

### July Anniversaries

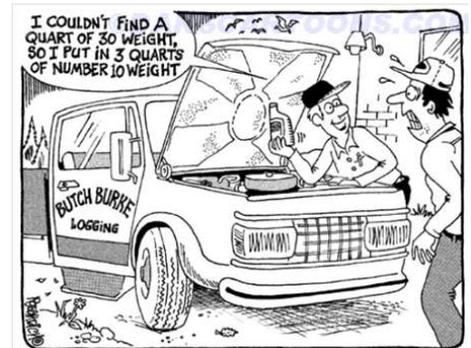
1<sup>st</sup>: Darrel & Ruby York  
15<sup>th</sup>: Jay & Bea Walsh  
29<sup>th</sup>: Jim Ross & Beverly Knauper



## Thoughts from the President:

Well my Thunderbird enthusiasts another month has passed without seeing one another's smiling faces. I would suspect that it may be getting a little difficult to maintain a strong positive spirit in the midst of all that is happening. I know I miss hugging my children and playing with my grandchildren, but we gotta do what we gotta do. Even though more and more things have been opening on a weekly basis, it was painful but appropriate to announce that we would not have a June club meeting. I applaud the club officers for being in general agreement that although it would be nice to get together; the continued high daily number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio (still in the 400-500 range) is significant enough to warrant careful consideration on our actions. Although the information being reported varies from source to source, I'm getting concerned over the number of states that are showing an upswing in cases. The last number I heard/read about was 20+ states. With the mass openings and the large groups involved in their right to protest, a resurgence in cases should not be surprising and certainly not ignored. As we learn more about the status of virus cases, I'll let you know about the possibility of a July club meeting.

On the lighter side, I'm getting tired. As much as I like to be outdoors and working with my hands, I've done so much sanding, pruning, dead heading, mowing, painting, etc; my biceps must be at least approaching the size of those of Arnold "I'll Be Back" Schwarzenegger. I can remember, as so many of you can, when on an extended vacation making a statement like, "I need to get home to get a rest". Well this somewhat imposed quarantine has me hoping this pandemic will get over soon so I can cut back on all the work and go have some fun. It's kind of like "all dressed up and no where to go", except its "T-bird cleaned up and no one to show".



*Brett*

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## 20 Fun Facts about the 4th of July/Independence Day

(Copied from the AECI Global website. Due to Newsletter space limitations, the article was edited to remove pictures, web links, references and superfluous information)



As we celebrate our Independence Day, it would be appropriate to share some fun facts about this historic day that many people don't know about the Fourth.

1. Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.
2. Only John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.
4. The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
5. One out of eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were educated at Harvard (7 total).
6. The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

7. The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.
8. The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.
9. The White House held its first 4th of July party in 1801.
10. President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.
11. Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.
12. In 1776, there were 2.5 million people living in the new nation. Today the population of the U.S.A. is 328.2 million (2019).
13. Fifty-nine places in the U.S. contain the word "liberty" in the name. Pennsylvania, with 11, has more of these places than any other state. Of the 59 places nationwide containing "liberty" in the name, four are counties: Liberty County, Ga. (65,471), Liberty County, Fla. (8,276), Liberty County, Mont. (2,392) and Liberty County, Texas (76,571).
14. The most common patriotic-sounding word used within place names is "union" with 136. Pennsylvania, with 33, has more of these places than any other state. Other words most commonly used in place names are Washington (127), Franklin (118), Jackson (96) and Lincoln (95).
15. Fireworks are part of the tradition of celebrating this national holiday. The U.S. imported \$227.3 million worth of fireworks from China in 2012. U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$11.7 million in 2012, with Israel purchasing more than any other country (\$2.5 million).
16. In 2012, vast majority of imported U.S. flags (\$3.6 million) was made in China.
17. Barbecue is also big on Independence Day. Approximately 150 million hot dogs and 700 million pounds of chicken are consumed on this day.
18. Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.
19. Traditions place the origins of "Yankee Doodle" as a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees" with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It is believed that the tune comes from the nursery rhyme Lucy Locket. One version of the Yankee Doodle lyrics is "generally attributed" to Doctor Richard Shuckburgh, a British Army surgeon. According to one story, Shuckburgh wrote the song after seeing the appearance of Colonial troops under Colonel Thomas Fitch, V, the son of Connecticut Governor Thomas Fitch.
20. The tune of the National Anthem was originally used by an English drinking song called "to Anacreon in Heaven." The words have nothing to do with consumption of alcohol but the "melody that Francis Key had in mind when he wrote those words did originate decades earlier as the melody for a song praise of wine."

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## Will There Ever Be Another Thunderbird?



I keep hearing weak rumors about another Thunderbird possible in Ford's future. So, with little else to do at the moment, I did a casual web search on the subject. To my surprise the below article from the DRIVETRIBE website was the first to appear and boy did the picture alone catch my eye. Personally, as a Thunderbird purest, the concept seems to be a little out there for me, but I found the article to be quite an interesting read. I would be curious to see what the true Thunderbird lover thinks of this imagined next generation T-Bird. Who knows, maybe it's an opportunity to get the younger generation

talking about and driving Thunderbirds. Then at some future point in time we old-world T-birders could share the car show stage in our classics and be billed as the forerunners to this Superbird. The below article is shown as originally written and published with no content editing changes.

## 2022: FORD THUNDERBIRD COULD REPLACE GT

[Jason Haddad](#) posted in [SUPERCAR COMMUNITY](#)



The days of the personal luxury car might be over, but with Ford's flagship, the GT supercar still in production until sometime in 2022, there's one car that Ford might actually bring back. It could bear the Thunderbird name, although it would enjoy a different lifestyle than either of the other cars carrying the name. Both the first-generation T-Bird and the eleventh-generation with the retro style were a mix of sporty and classy, with quite a few powerful V8 engines to choose from; but the next T-Bird, if it decides to come back, will

take a different route.

If the Ford Thunderbird comes back, it will likely become a high-performance grand tourer. To state my predictions, it will likely come standard as a two-seat convertible (as did the first-generation model), but it could do so along with a no-cost two-seat coupe variant. The Thunderbird could underpin a Lincoln model with more practical variants, such as a 2+2 coupe and its convertible equivalent, and even a four-door coupe and/or sedan. No kidding, there was in fact a four-door Thunderbird, which was produced only in the model's fifth generation with Lincoln Continental-style suicide doors.

The Ford brand may have edged out all of the cars except for the Mustang pony/muscle car and the GT supercar. But that won't stop the brand from reviving the Thunderbird, which could slot in-between with the muscle car and the supercar that it might replace. It will likely use the same front-engine, rear-wheel-drive (FR) layout as all Thunderbirds have. Or, Ford could move the engine a little back, making for an FMR layout, or a front-mid-engine, rear-wheel-drive layout. Many grand tourers carry the latter layout to ensure better balance towards the rear wheels.

The Ford Thunderbird was not only a sports car (first and eleventh generations), but also a midsize and later full-size car (second through tenth generations). All generations had V8 engines either as standard or optional, although quite a few had V6 engines. This is why when the Thunderbird name makes a return, it could spawn as many variants as possible, especially when rebadged as Lincolns. As Ford already is going towards the fully electric route, who knows when there will be an electric CUV/SUV carrying the Thunderbird name? An electric SUV that could even replace the full-size, body-on-frame Expedition?!

Anyways, back to the sports car revival. The Ford Thunderbird will likely carry twin-turbocharged V6 and V8 engines. A mid-level Thunderbird will likely take on cars like the recently-launched McLaren GT and Ferrari Roma, as well as the Aston Martin DB11, while an even more extreme T-Bird will battle with ultimate GTs such as the Ferrari 812 and Aston Martin DBS. For the North American market, the engine options could include a 700-horsepower, 3.5-liter V6 and a 1,000-horsepower, 5.2-liter V8. For the European market, the options could expand to a 3.0 V6 with 400 hp and 415 lb-ft of torque, as well as a detuned 3.5 V6 with 450 hp and 510 lb-ft.

The 700-hp V6 T-Bird could accelerate from 0-60mph in 3.5sec and hit a maximum speed of 195mph, while the 1000-hp V8 T-Bird could sprint to 60 in just 3.3sec and top 200mph. Transmission options should include a 10-speed automatic and a 6-speed manual. The Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 muscle car and the Ford GT supercar both come with a 7-speed dual-clutch automatic, but big power should make up for the T-Bird's more traditional gearboxes, as it will be designed more for comfort rather than for speed.

The Ford Thunderbird will likely cost \$80,000 for the 700hp V6 variant and \$130,000 for the 1000hp V8 variant, making it the most powerful car in its segment. It should continue where the Dodge Viper and Cadillac XLR-V left off, by being America's top-dog, front-engine, two-seater brute, combining the agility of a Viper and the comfort of an XLR-V! The Chevrolet Corvette is now a mid-engine supercar, although it is not as expensive as the Ford GT. The Thunderbird will be America's next monster, soon to be.

**Did You Know???** From the beginning, the Thunderbird was built as a "personal luxury" car rather than a sports car. Rather than using a fiberglass body, which was popular at the time, the car was made of steel with a removable fiberglass roof. The name Thunderbird was chosen from over 5,000 suggestions. The name "Whizzer" also was in strong contention for the name. Glad they went with Thunderbird. Whizzer kind of conjures up a less-than-flattering image for a car logo.

**In A Future Newsletter:** Be on the lookout for the update on Roger's restoration of their 66 T-bird.



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