

# The Bird's Eye View

EST.  
1969

## Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego, CTCI Chapter 24 San Diego, California

June 2017

[www.tbirdsofsan diego.com](http://www.tbirdsofsan diego.com)

Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego

Presidents Message, May 2017

### SUMMER IS HERE !

Believe it or not, the year is almost half way over and Summer officially begins June 21st. Cruise Nights, Car Shows, Parades and other fun activities have already begun. The first sign that summer is upon us is the San Diego County Fair has already opened and Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego and the Wunderbirds were featured on Wednesday, June 7th. We had a great turnout, although a nicely restored 1966 triple black Thunderbird from the Wunderbirds Club won the People's Choice award. As always, the staff of the fair presented all drivers with a great looking personalized poster of their Thunderbird. Be sure to look for an article by Gary Noyes further back in the newsletter.

The 4th of July Parade in Coronado is coming up quickly and it would be nice to have a good representation of our club this year. In past years, we have had as many as twelve cars, but in the last 2-3 years, that number has dwindled down significantly. The parade is full of patriotic pageantry and good old fashioned fun, so wave some flags and drive your T-Bird to celebrate the 4th of July. Also in July, a favorite event is the Main Street America car show at the Embarcadero Park North, behind Seaport Village. For many years we have had great club participation and a lot of fun. The show organizers park all the Thunderbirds in a section with assigned parking and everyone has a great time checking out all the other cars on one of the most beautiful venues in San Diego. There is no other show around that I know of that can beat the view. The show sells out quickly, so get your registrations in soon. You can now register on-line at [www.cocsd.com/product/car-show-registration/](http://www.cocsd.com/product/car-show-registration/). Thunderbirds are in class Q.

With these activities and more, please make sure your car is in good running condition. One of the best ways to keep your car in good shape is to get out and drive it regularly. At our June meeting, we will have a speaker on tires, tire care and maintenance from Discount Tire. Don't miss this meeting.

Hope to see you out and about in your Thunderbirds !

David Durrill, President

Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego

Club Website: [www.tbirdsofsan diego.com](http://www.tbirdsofsan diego.com)



800.360.9678

Kearny Pearson Ford  
7303 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, CA, 92111-1101



Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego  
CTCI Chapter 24

## MEETING MINUTES - MAY 20, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 2:12 PM.

2. Minutes Approved - Minutes for April 23 meeting unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report - Terry Medina presented report for April 30, 2017 Accepted by all members present.

4. Old Business:

April 29: Lakeside Western Days Parade 4 cars, 3 classic and Bob Schlotter brought his big bird 1959 convertible. Others in attendance - Dave Durrill, Don See and Gary Dumas.

April 30: Motor Cars on Main Street - 9 cars participated, Bill Spears hosted them before the event. They were parked together on Star Park Circle. Gary Noyes modeled the t-shirt they received. We got two new members from the event - welcome to Mitch and Elaine Villalpando.

May 20 - Saturday 7am KUSI promo for today's T-Bird Appreciation. There were 6 cars. Attendees were: Dave and Janice Durill, Don See, Bill Hydrick, Larry Hoskinson, Terry Medina, Don Hummer and Chuck Ousler. Most of us had breakfast at the Studio Diner after the show.

May 21 - National Thunderbird Appreciation Day, we had a car show from 1-3pm with a jar out for donations to Meals on Wheels. 15 cars participated.

5. New Business:

June 7, Wednesday for T-Birds at the Fair - Gary Noyes reported that we are teamed with the Wunderbirds again. Each has 8 spots but they do not always use all of theirs. Please sign-up and you will be contacted by Gary. Each car entered receives 4 free tickets to the fair. We will meet at 9am at the McDonalds on the east side of Hwy 5 and Via de la Valle so we can arrive as a group. There will be an opportunity for voting for People's Choice. They take picture of you in your car at the entry. At 3pm you receive a mounted photo and they give awards.

June 10 - 30th Annual Fords and Friends Car Show Escondido - 321 North Broadway - info [www.pickupslimitedsandiego.com](http://www.pickupslimitedsandiego.com) - (619) 917-9065 Parking is on the grass, food trucks are available. Contact Joe Blazick and he will email you an application.

Chuck Ousler - wanted to know what everyone likes his cool hat. He also introduced a guest. Fred LaCroix - is looking to buy a 1957 automatic, he has given his phone number to some of the members that he discussed this with.

Paul Mears and Taylor Miller - also new members, have two tbirds - his is aqua and hers is pink (she brought hers today). She donated an article from the La Jolla News about her and her car. Hoping to add this to our next newsletter.

Carol Noyes discussed trip she and Gary took to Palm Desert. They met with the Tbird club there and attended their dinner meeting. There was discussion about having a joint cruise with them next Mar (2018). Suggestions for a meeting point were Mission Inn and Idyllwild.

June 17 - Lantern Crest Car Show in Santee, this is the 4th annual show. The show includes a BBQ, oldies band and tour of the lovely facility. Contact Dan Regan to participate,



Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego  
CTCI Chapter 24

**July 4 -**

July 30 - Corvette Club sponsored 21st Main Street America People's Choice Charity Car Show at Embarcadero Marina Park North, near Seaport Village. Pre-registration is required. July 17 is deadline for registration. Bob Pratt, MSA Planning Committee Chairperson Corvette Owners Club of San Diego 925-642-6448 bob\_pratt@cox.net

**August 18 - Crusin' Grand discussion about where to meet TBD**

Hilltop Classics - sold and moving to Virginia <http://www.hilltopclassics.net/index.htm>  
This needs to be confirmed with Vickie Olmsted.

Tech Reports : none

Sunshine: Craig and Dannie McLaughlin have moved. They have already joined the T-bird club at their new location.

Joe Blazick - has aftermarket convertible top hardware, speak to after meeting

Dave Durill - asked for ideas for future events - call or email

Thanked all for attending and touched on low meeting attendance.

Kearny Pearson Ford endorses Meals on Wheels. We are taking donations at the car show.  
Moved/seconded/approved Club to donate \$100 to Meals on Wheels and proceeds from  
donation bucket. Bucket yield is \$83

July XX Encinitas Classic Car Show Hwy 101 Gary Noyes will contact them for date

CTCI - magazine cover this month cover shows Rick Steiner's car.

Open Discussion - Dave asked for any questions or concerns

Don See mentioned he has recipes for his Summer Sausage- yum.

**6. 50/50 drawing**

Raffle yield is \$60. \$30 was won by Mike Hansen!

**7. Closing Remarks**

Introduce newest members : Mitch and Elaine Villalpando

Mitch has his father-in-laws 1957 Tbird. He was looking for a corvette and was offered the T-bird. They worked with Ken Haakma on restoring the car. It is all original except the paint which is metal flake dark grey, with a black hardtop. They joined Ken to show it at the Del Mar fair a couple years ago.

Thank you to Carol and Gary Noyes for the yummy snacks.

**8. Adjourn at 2:58 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Medina

**New members Taylor Miller and Paul Mears gave us a copy of the La Jolla Light newspaper that featured Taylor's beautiful pink '56 and Paul's '55. They had Taylor's car at Sunday's meeting.**



St. Germaine's looks forward to Silver Tea

B6

# LIFE STYLES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

lajollalight.com

Hats luncheon raises funds for charity

B12



## SECTION B



# Taylor and Her T-Bird

Taylor Miller with her 1956 Ford Thunderbird at her La Jolla home.

ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

BY ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

*Editor's Note: In response to an invitation to classic car owners to share their vehicle love stories, more than a dozen car buffs contacted La Jolla Light to be interviewed about their prized possessions. In this new series, we present their delightful roadster experiences.*

For newer La Jolla resident Taylor Miller, the Ford Thunderbird is the quintessential California car. And now that she's taking advantage of nearby surfing, paddleboarding and Golden State outdoor recreation opportunities — she simply had to have one. So she acquired a pink 1956 Ford T-Bird, which she calls "The Pink Mermaid."

"They are the cutest damn cars in the whole world," Miller said. "People see my car and call it a 'Malibu Barbie' car and want to take their picture by it — especially little girls; they go insane!"

For several years, Miller shared residency



A series on La Jollans and the cars they love

between WindanSea and Salt Lake City, Utah. But now she is here to stay and a few years ago moved to a house off Torrey Pines Road with her partner, Paul Mears. Mears also owns a T-Bird, and took Miller out for a drive in it during their courtship.

"When I saw Paul's T-Bird, I absolutely fell in love with it. I had to have one. I was driving what he calls a 'citizen car' at the time, which was nice, but I wanted a T-Bird with the continental kit (a tire on the back),

which his didn't have," she said.

"I asked Paul if he could look around for a 1956 T-Bird for me so it would have the kit. We found one in Oregon, owned by a doctor who never drove it; he kept it in the garage. We had someone from the T-Bird Club we belong to check it out. He knew what he was looking at and said it was authentic and worth the money."

The only downside is the color. Miller said while she wasn't looking for a pink car, the shade is light enough that she was OK with it.

Mears' 1955 T-Bird, named "Teddy," is blue. A painting, he said, that does not go unnoticed.

"We were living in WindanSea and had the pink and blue cars parked in the driveway one day, and there was a couple who had just gotten married, standing there with their photographer taking pictures," he said. "I let them get in the cars and stand next to them, as if they were his-and-hers cars for their wedding photos."

Mears said the appeal of the T-Bird lies in the "creative styling" of the time. "Things were new and people were trying new styles when Ford was making the T-Bird."

Nowadays, you can't tell a Chrysler from a Bentley; cars are so similar — they were so unique back then. I see old cars and I'm blown away with the creativity."

Miller agrees. "I just love these cars. I like cars and anything sporty, like surfing or skiing. And this car is all about that. I also love the smell of an old car and the fact that it sounds like a boat motor. It's harder to drive, certainly, but it's just so different," she said. "I'll go somewhere to run an errand and return to my car and there will be a crowd around it. I let people hop in and get their picture taken inside. I can't go anywhere without people talking to me or getting a thumbs-up on the freeway."

To keep it clean and its parts lubricated,

Miller said she regularly washes and drives

SEE ONE FOR THE ROAD, B18



The Pink Mermaid, a 1956 Ford Thunderbird with a continental kit, owned by Taylor Miller.



Paul Mears and his 1955 T-Bird, named "Teddy."

COURTESY

#### FROM ONE FOR THE ROAD, BY

The Pink Mermaid. "I love to wash my car. My father always had to have the latest cars and when I was little I would help him wash them," she said. "And by driving it around, it keeps the parts from breaking."

Both Miller and Mears regularly drive their vehicles, but one is more cautious than the other when it comes to dings and dents.

Mears said, "I'm careful with the car, but I use it. I drive it to go surfing or run errands. Some (classic) cars are for driving and others live in trailers their whole lives."

Miles is somewhere in between, she said. "I'll drive. The Pink Mermaid around, but if someone opens the door and hits my car, I get really upset."

In the event a part needs to be replaced, Mears said the T-Bird is simple to fix. "If we

worked on cars my whole life, but you don't need a lot of experience to make minor repairs, you can get the parts easily and look it up on YouTube when you don't know what to do. That's something you have to keep in mind when you buy an old car; how available the parts will be, because you could own a \$44,000 car but not be able to drive it because

a \$55 part isn't available. You can find parts for this car all over the place, and there are

T-Bird Clubs everywhere that can help."

Mears added the car clubs are everywhere because there is an appreciation for this "American Classic," which has translated into pop culture. In the 1973 film, "American Graffiti," Suzanne Somers makes a cameo appearance as "Blond in the T-Bird" that portrays Carol, played by Richard Dreyfuss, to caliber. "The most perfect dazzling creature I've ever seen."



# WHERE the WEST IS FUN

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

presented by Albertsons. VONS.

Ten cars from our club were displayed at the County Fair on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We were joined by four cars from the Wunderbird club.

We all assembled at the McDonald's on Via de la Valle and then caravanned over to the Fair at about 9:20 that morning. Our cars were arranged on the track right at the walk-through over to the Kid's Zone – a high-traffic area. Bob Meigs, the car coordinator for the Fair, then gave us some introductory remarks. After a bit of cleaning, we were free to browse the Fair, stay by the cars and talk with people, or some of both!

We had to be back by 2:45 pm. Bob Meigs gave out the photo posters of each car, then announced the winner of the People's Choice balloting. It was won by one of the Wunderbird members who brought a 1966 convertible Thunderbird with an after-market tonneau cover.

Most headed home after that, although a few opted to remain at the Fair (more deep fried Twinkies?). We'll do it again next year!

Gary Noyes



# 2017

# SAN DIEGO CLASSIC CAR SHOW



## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

2017

### June

**25 Sunday Regular meeting, 2pm at Kearny Pearson Ford**

### July

**4 Coronado 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

**23 Regular Meeting , 2pm at Kearny Pearson Ford**

**30 Main Street America , People's Choice Car Show ;  
Embarcadero Marina Park behind Seaport Village  
(check in 8 – 9 am)**

### August

**18 Friday, Cruisin' Grand, Escondido Cruise Night 4pm  
More Details to follow**

**27 Sunday, Regular Meeting, Kearny Pearson Ford 2pm**

*.....MORE EVENTS TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER!!!*

## Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego

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**Vice President, Bill Speers**

**Treasurer, Terry Medina**

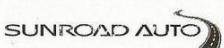
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**Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego**

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Please email newsletter contributions to [trsmary@cox.net](mailto:trsmary@cox.net)

Regular meeting Location: Kearny Pearson Ford

7303 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA, 92111-1101  
(unless otherwise noted)

**June 25, 2017 @ 2:00PM**

## RATS!

No, not a Charlie Brown exclamation. I'm talking RODENTS!

I noticed a bad smell coming from under the hood of my '02 Retro Bird the other day. Carol also noticed it that afternoon. The next morning it was even worse.

I popped the hood and peered around, using a flashlight. Couldn't see anything, but I guessed something got in there and died and was now smelling. Need to put the car on a lift and look from underneath. So I called Coastal Car Care in Carlsbad. I had my '55 in there 6 months ago for a brake problem. They found my power brake booster had gone bad and had it rebuilt. It's worked fine since. Other club members have been there with their classic T-birds and had been pleased; so was I.

They were able to get me in the very next day. Smell was even worse now! They put it up on a lift and, sure enough, there was a dead rat in a small area by the RF suspension. They got it out and into a plastic bag to be sealed up and tossed. WOOF, did it smell (and can you say maggots!). Not a pleasant task for the owner, Glen!

Gary Noyes

# [www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com](http://www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com)

### July

- July 9th - Summer Fling Its a Car Show Thing Santee - info (760) 440-0896 - All years C&T
- July 15th - MoPar Club All American Car Show, Mira Costa College open to all years C&T. For more info visit [www.moparclubsandiego.net](http://www.moparclubsandiego.net)
- July 22nd - 12th Annual Thanksgiving in July Car and Motorcycle Show - Oceanside - 8 am - Elks Lodge #1561 - 444 Country Club Lane - All years C&T [See flyer](#)
- July 30th - Main Street America car Show Embarcaderp Marina Park north (Seaport Village) [see flyer](#)

### August

- August 5th - Greatest Show on Turf 9am - Car Show and Clairemont Family Day Open to all makes C&T- South Clairemont Park, 3605 Clairemont Dr, San Diego, Rain or Shine!  
  
(Note: Car Show entry on Waco Dr. Take either Dakota or Ute from Clairemont Dr and then to Waco) Info [www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com](http://www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com) or [hemiboy@msn.com](mailto:hemiboy@msn.com) [See flyer](#)
- August 12th - National City Heritage Day car show, Kimball Park, Nat City Open to all years C&T.
- August 12th - 28th Anniversary Big Bear "Fun Run" Big Bear
- August 27th - Picnic by the Bay 9 am - Embarcadero Marina Park North (Seaport Village) - Open all '72 and older C&T - info Leon (858) 569-0738 or Leroy (619) 429-5291 - [classicchevysofsandiego.com](http://classicchevysofsandiego.com) - [see flyer](#)

## Treasurer's Report by Theresa Medina

### Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego



	This Period	Fiscal Year
1-May-2017	1-Jan-2017	
31-May-2017	31-Dec-2017	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>4,231.01</b>	<b>4,160.45</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>1,575.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>269.55</b>	<b>1,683.99</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>4,051.46</b>	<b>4,051.46</b>
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>3,375.47</b>	
<b>05-31-17</b>		
<b>Balanced</b>	<b>6-8-2017</b>	



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