



WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

FLYING HIGH ON THE PRESIDENT'S MYSTERY TOUR

The first event of the year is always the President's Mystery Tour. We were pleasantly entertained, as usual this year. Dave Adams and Susan Busby led us to the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA. The museum is dedicated to flight and the adventurousness and innovations of aviation pioneers. It holds vintage and futuristic aircraft prototypes. Aircraft go back as far as the 1860's and include replicas of the Wright Brothers, and Stanley Hiller's designs. Hiller recognized the strength the Bay

Area possessed in harboring the talent, science, progressive attitudes and capital resources needed to develop science and aviation in the 21st Century. Club members enjoyed the simulator – though everyone crash-landed it. After exploring the museum for a couple of hours, the group headed up to Alice's Restaurant in La Honda CA for lunch. It is a beautiful drive and a very fun spot. Thanks Dave and Susan for a fun outing.



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Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club (BATOC) Club Tidbits

Upcoming Events

Event	Date
Super Bowl Party	Sun. Feb 4
February Meeting	Sat. Feb 10
March Meeting & Bowlathon	Sat. Mar 10

Dave, Congrats on another great Calendar. I enjoy it for all the TBs. In addition several of the pictures are taken in places that I have been. Every April I vacation to California and visit CSRM Railtown in Jamestown, CA. I have visited the Concours at Ironstone Winery in Murphy several times, including the one for the 50th Anniversary of the Thunderbird. In addition, I travel down to Monterey and Carmel. One year I made plans to visit the Birds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz. As each month passes, I am reminded of California. I often would have liked to have my car there. I don't think I would survive the drive. I am enclosing a picture taken at the 10,000 Lakes Concours in Excelsior, MN where I won best in class, a real high point in my ownership of my 1955 Thunderbird. They asked owners to dress in the era of the vintage of the car. Thanks again for putting out a class calendar.

Best regards,
David Trucksess
MiniBirds of Minnesota



BATOC Club Monthly meeting is on the second Sat of each month at:

The Buttercup Grill & Bar
660 Ygnacio Valley Road
Walnut Creek CA

10am - noon \$20 for breakfast

Next meeting: Feb 10, 2018

Spare Change for Charity

Don't forget to bring your spare change to all meetings and outings.

Facebook Group Page: Bay Area
Thunderbird Owners Club

Website: batoc.org

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PRES SAYS



HURRY, HURRY – GO FAST

I am so bad and Jean is so patient and now it is down to the wire – past actually – so I will go fast and hurry.

The news of the month for BATOC is pretty much Nil. January is usually pretty quiet as we recover from the Holidays and regroup for the year. Of course, we are supposed to hold the annual “Board Meeting” in January but alas we did not. It is being scheduled for early February and I will, of course, keep you all informed.

January did bring us the President’s Mystery Tour, which I believe was a success. I didn’t hear any obvious complaints so I am thinking that everyone had a good time. For those of you who missed it, we had a nice trip to the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. I really had no idea that “Hiller” was so influential in aviation history. The museum was followed by a beautiful drive and a fabulous and fun lunch at Alice’s Restaurant on Skyline Blvd. in Woodside. Alice’s is always a fun outing and if you have not been there for a weekend lunch, it is definitely a destination restaurant that is worth the trip. Thanks to everyone who attended.

We will be holding a Route 66 committee meeting after our regular meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10. Everyone is invited to attend and inject their ideas. Time is, of course, growing short and we will need to finalize most of our plans within the next month or so. Many reservations have been secured and we are getting down to the finer details of the trip. If you have not committed to this trip, you owe it to yourself to jump on board.

On a personal note, I have officially rented out my own house and am now in search of a garage space to park my car for the next few months. Unfortunately, Susan’s garage is unavailable until later this Summer and parking it outside under a cover is not an attractive idea. So, if anybody has a space they can loan or rent out, please let me know.

Also as I begin the process of cleaning out my garage, I have a couple of items for sale including my previously mentioned body rotisserie and a brand new, still in the box, chrome continental kit tire ring to dress up your 1956. Also have 4, 14” rims with tires. The tires would not be useable anymore but the rims are good. They are Ford rims – not correct TBird rims. Let me know.

By the time you read this, Superbowl will be over but GO EAGLES.

See you guys next Saturday at the meeting and enjoy this fabulous Spring weather.

Happy T-Birding

Dave

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BATOC Breakfast Club Meeting January 13, 2018

29 attendees

President, Dave Adams, called the meeting to order. Condolences were expressed for the flood victims in Santa Barbara. Condolences also go out to Betty Hopkins, who lost husband Michael last year. He will be missed.

New member introductions:

John Kaneshige – he has had 3 Tbirds in his family over the years, but his current car, has been with him for 20 years. Prior to that it was garaged for 20 years at a neighbors' house. It is a '57 peacock blue. The car was a stripped down model, but has since been improved over the years. Sandy left a card on John's Tbird at a car show in Danville. That is how he found us.

Larry Banks – found a white Tbird, 3-speed overdrive in Alameda when he was 21. The odometer was broken. He has put over 100,000 miles on this car. When they bought a house, his wife wanted him to sell it, but he held on to it. They decided that their first child that graduated college would get the car, so after his son's graduation, it was given to him (though it is still in his garage). Now Larry is looking for a New Bird. He wants to make sure he has one before the Route 66 trip. Larry was a member of BATOC back in 1968 for 3 years. He is happy to be back with the group now.

Vice President, Guy, said he couldn't get the old badges. He made a new badge for a new member, and everyone liked it. It is gold. We may want to consider replacing everyone's badges with the new ones. Guy will look into the cost.

Don't forget to bring your spare change to the meetings and events. We already have \$18 and collected more today. Sue Mathieson has a box for the collection. She will keep track of the money, and we will decide in Nov which charities to donate to.

The Monterey Tbird Club gave Guy and the club gift certificates for their assistance at Birds on the Wharf. Guy will donate his to the club for buying spare parts for the Route 66 trip. Thanks to the Monterey Club for the certificates.

Thanks to Diana and Jack Starr for organizing the Christmas party. It was a great party.

Thanks to Jean for her first newsletter. Jean is going to buy software to compress files for easier emailing. She used the software as a trial on the newsletter and it was compressed from 7mb to 1mb. You can send club files needing compression to her in the future.

Jim and Maria got their car back after about 8 months. It looks great though!

There are still a few calendars left – contact Dave if you need one. We sold about 100 copies. It was a very nice calendar. We got a nice note from one of our regular customers from Minnesota, saying he really enjoyed it.

The Sequoia Classic Thunderbird Club is sponsoring a car show in Visalia in May. We were invited to participate in this event. See the attached reservation form. Sounds like a fun outing.

Ed Benson gave us a status on the California Coast Princess Cruise in late April to early May. So far 6 couples are signed up. It should be a great time. There is still time to sign up, so contact Ed if you want to go. He is looking at organizing some outings at our ports – wine tasting in Santa Barbara, Petersen Car Museum in LA, and Tequila tasting in Ensenada.

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BATOC Breakfast Club Meeting January 13, 2018

con't

Route 66 planning will continue. Next meeting is after the Feb. BATOC meeting. So far we have about 8 cars going, but room for more.

Kathy Ramos asked if we want to continue with the wine glass recognition awards or if we wanted another gift? She will look into what other possibilities there might be and let us know at the next meeting.

Maria mentioned that you could use BATOC bucks to buy apparel. Just buy your apparel on line, then give your bucks to Maria and she will reimburse you. Maria also recommended that we give 100 BATOC bucks to a person who brings in a new member.

Please pay your 2018 dues to Maria.

Upcoming Outings

Tomorrow – President 's Mystery Tour – The first half of the tour was revealed – Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The second half of the tour was still a mystery. Please have a hearty breakfast, because we won't be eating until around 3pm. Meet at Buttercup at 10:30 or at the Museum by 11:15.

Feb. 4 – Superbowl Party at the Guthries in Livermore. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. Plan to arrive around 2.

March 10 – after BATOC meeting, there will be a bowling event in Livermore, followed by dinner at the Castle Rock Restaurant. More details to follow.

May - Saturday of Memorial Weekend, May 26, the Cummins are hosting a mystery theater barbecue dinner. We may want to dress in roaring 20's apparel to go along with the theme of the mystery theater. We will start at the Cummins; go to a couple of wineries for wine tasting, and then return to the Cummins for the Mystery dinner. Sounds like a great time. Again, more details to follow.

There is also a Sutter Creek outing that the Riley's can put together, that includes a mine and cast iron foundry and machine shop. This can fill in any time an event is needed.

June – Anniversary party – Mary found out that the Catamaran Ship costs \$1200 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours. This does not include any food or beverages. This seems too expensive. Another possibility is the Hornblower Brunch on the SF Bay. This costs \$75. More details to follow.

Hot Danville nights will be on a Sunday, July and August, this year. It will probably get a new name too! We will let you know when we hear more about it.

Aug – Ed suggested a progressive dinner and volunteered to do the main course.

Sept. Ironstone, Birds on the Wharf

Oct – Route 66

Nov – Veterans Parade in Fairfield – Gil doesn't know he is organizing this yet.

Dec – Christmas Party – Phil and Vi said they would book a Rossmoor room for us. Tony and Kathy Lloyd will plan the dinner. We will try to get it earlier in the month this year.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Riley

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BLAST FROM THE PAST!

IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR by Skip Riggs

During our visit to Richmond, California to visit the "Red Oak" Victory ship, President Dave Adams asked me about some of the early events staged by the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club. It got me to thinking that there might be some interest from current club members about the origins of the club and some of the events we used to stage during the early years. In that vane I asked Jean Riley if she would like me to report some of these happenings in WNIB, since I am about the only one left who may remember them. In that spirit, here goes.

Having been separated from the U. S. Air Force in early 1957 and returning to the Bay Area to live and work, my first move after securing employment was to purchase a new 1957 Ford Thunderbird from Vad Jelton Ford Sales on Broadway in Oakland. I was very proud of that car and entered it in the first Lake Merritt Concours d' Elegance later that summer. I was lucky enough to take First Place in Class (still have the trophy), and met several other owners of sports type cars that were entered in the show. One of them was a man named John Algy who was a member of the Highland Touring Club located in Oakland. John graciously invited me to become a member of his club, and I attended the next meeting with John a couple of weeks later. When asked to stand and introduce myself and announce the make and model of my car, I answered with my name and that I was the proud owner of a new Ford Thunderbird. You can imagine the laughs and comments I received after that statement. I was reminded that the Highland Touring Club was dedicated to real sports cars and the Thunderbird was not accepted in that category of cars.



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IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR by Skip Riggs con't

Upon returning home I told my wife about the treatment the car and I had received and vowed to find a club dedicated to just the Thunderbird. I contacted Josh Hogue who did an automotive column for the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper requesting information about such a club. Josh told me that to his knowledge there was no club for our car although there were clubs for Jaguar, MG, Triumph and Corvettes. It was then that I decided to start a club of our own. The rest is history.

Janie and I rented the Lake Merritt Boat House from the City of Oakland for a certain date in April of 1958 and planned to invite every Thunderbird owner we could contact before that date. We then made up penny post cards with the appropriate information listed on the card along with contact information and the scheduled date and place for our first meeting. We spent about 5 weeks driving around Oakland, Berkeley, San Leandro and Hayward looking for Thunderbirds. When we spotted one, we would either speak with the owner or place a card on the windshield of the car with the information about starting a club.

On the scheduled date we had some 33 people show up. I presided over the first meeting and it went well. There seemed to be a great deal of enthusiasm for this type of club and all who attended agreed to join in. Elections were held with myself being elected President; George Rudy of Richmond Vice President; Jane Riggs as Recording Secretary; Faye Edwards as Corresponding Secretary and Dick Nagle of Oakland as Treasurer. One of the attendees was a fellow named Art Horsfall who happened to be a sales person at Cirimele Ford in Oakland who offered the use of his firm's showroom as our meeting place for our second meeting. Art was soon elected as Vice President to replace George Rudy who found he did not have the time to devote to the new club office. Initiation Fee was set at \$10.00 with dues set at \$1.00 per month or \$10.00 per year payable in advance.

We immediately began to plan club events with our first event to take place on May 18th 1958. It was to be a picnic at Marsh Creek Park, just outside Clayton, Ca. We had a good turnout which included a stop at "Pioneer Village" in Lafayette on the way. I mention this because one of our members, Jack Taylor who was a professional musician whose group worked at "Pioneer Village". Their theme song was entitled "Lullaby in Birdland" which became our club theme song and I also used part of the wording when I produced our newsletter calling it WNIBL "What's New In Birdland".

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IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR by Skip Riggs con't

Our next planned event was an overnighter to Hoberg's Resort in Lake County, Ca. near Clear Lake. We met at Jack London Square in Oakland in two groups to caravan to Hoberg's. One group departed June 21st, and the second group the next day due to work schedules. While at Hoberg's we planned a Gymkhana. For those of you not conversant with sports car lingo, a Gymkhana is a timed event over a closed course running against a clock. The course was set up with pylons in the parking lot of the hotel. This almost ended up in disaster! We soon found out that our cars were not as nimble as the foreign imported sports cars and we almost had a couple of roll over's by lead footed Thunderbird drivers. It all turned out OK though and we had lots of fun kidding the "hot rodders" in the group after all was said and done.

At the July meeting it was suggested and discussed that we incorporate the club. This was due to the fact that we learned that on an organized club function, if someone were injured the entire club membership could be held liable. We engaged an attorney and proceeded to incorporate the club under the laws of the state of California, which gave the membership limited liability. This is the main reason why, later on when we were approached by Vic Take about taking over his fledgling national Thunderbird Club, we refused his request. Vic had placed an ad in Road and Track magazine inviting Thunderbird owners across the country to join CTCI.

Our club later on decided to become part of CTCI after it had been incorporated in California and headquartered in San Francisco. This was done some time later. In July we had another picnic event at Brighton Park as well as a dinner and dance at the "Happy Valley Inn" which had been the former "Pioneer Village" in Lafayette. This was set up by our musician member Jack Taylor with your choice of either fish or steak dinner for \$2.50 per person including dinner, tax and cover charge. Can you imagine? Our next event in July was a night rally on July 26th. The rally was a popular event among sports car owners and ours was set up in the hills of Moraga. For rallying, there were several options for directions. In this one, each car owner was given a set of printed instructions to follow with the beginning and ending mileage determining the winner. In this rally, First Place was won by a Karmann Ghia owner; Second Place went to Dick Nagle our Treasurer and Third Place went to our own Lew Edwards in his 56 Buckskin Thunderbird. We did allow other sports car owners to participate in some of our timed events. It was a whole other world back then. Drivers would actually wave at each other when passing on the road.

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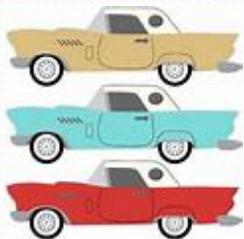
IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR by Skip Riggs con't

Other rally's we put on were Poker Rally's and Hound and Hare Rally's. The Poker Rally is self-explanatory and in the Hound and Hare event, one lead car drives over the proposed route. At each turn he makes, he drives approximately 1/4 mile past the turn and drops a bag of flour to indicate the direction traveled. Each participating car would have to go to each turn, try to figure out which direction the "rabbit" had taken and try to follow the route. The winning car would be the car with the least amount of traveled mileage from the start. Lots of fun!

In the October issue of WNIBL we began a feature entitled "In This Corner" in which we focused on a particular member of the club and his contributions to the club. This was later changed to "In The Spotlight" and was a feature of the newsletter for several months thereafter.

At the November meeting of the club, an amendment to our constitution was passed to read: "We resolve to amend Article III, Section 1, Line 4 and Article III, Section 2m, Para. (a) to read: "Any person who is the registered owner of a 2-passenger Ford Thunderbird automobile may become an Active Member of this Club and be entitled to all of its privileges upon his or her payment of the stated initiation fee and is entitled to continuing membership upon the payment of dues and assessments hereinafter and upon complying and qualifying under the requirements stated herein". Boy, did this just about end the club. Reason being that Ford had come out with the four seater Thunderbird (same name, different car) and we had some folks who had traded in their two seater for a larger car and wanted to stay in the club. This fight went on for months. More about that later.

If there is interest in the current membership about this old history, I will continue in future issues of WNIBL.



Thunderbird



WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

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FEBRUARY 2018

It's Time for the
Annual Super Bowl Party

at the Guthrie's House!!!

RSVP Now!!

Call: 925-292-7643 or email: jmguthrie57@gmail.com



SUPER BOWL LII

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Join the fun!

-  **Bring your favorite dish and beverage to share**
-  **Cheer on your favorite team**
-  **Hang out with friends**
-  **Festivities start at 2; Game starts at 3:30**

Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 2PM
637 Yorkshire Court Livermore, CA

WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND?

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FEBRUARY 2018

BATOC Bowling Bash



JOIN US!!

For a fun-filled day planned by Maria and Jim!

Saturday, March 10th

Following the BATOC Monthly Meeting, we will meet at Granada Bowl in Livermore (1620 Railroad Ave). Lanes are reserved from 1:30 – 3pm and the cost is \$13 per person.

From the bowling alley we will caravan to Castle Rock Restaurant (1848 Portola Ave) for an early dinner and end the day with dessert at the Guthrie's house.

RSVP by March 3rd to Maria and Jim Guthrie
(925) 292-7643

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Circa 1990

In the beginning....

A small group of friends who owned Thunderbirds got together regularly and drove their cars on outings and weekend trips around the state. In the summer of 1990, they began to discuss the possibilities of starting a local Thunderbird Club in the Tulare/Kings County area. On December 7, 1990, they decided to hold an organizational meeting. There was so much enthusiasm, interest, and support that they elected officers.

They then contacted the Classic Thunderbird Club International (C.T.C.I.) to get information and guidelines in an effort to apply for a charter. After meeting all of the requirements, at the meeting of the Board of Directors of C.T.C.I. on February 6, 1993, the Board voted to accept the Sequoia Classic Thunderbird Club as their newest member and this group of proud Thunderbird enthusiasts became "Charter # 109".

The rest, my friends, is history.....



**Submit Your Registration
EARLY!!!
(Form Attached)**

**You Are Cordially Invited
To
Revisit the Wonderful Memories
We Enjoyed Together**

**Join Us On A Walk (Drive) Down
Memory Lane**

QC+ XLI

**Hosted by
Sequoia Classic Thunderbird
May 17th, 18th, 19th,
2018**

**At
The Marriott Hotel & Convention
Center
300 S. Court St.
Visalia, Ca.**

Don't Miss QC+ XLI

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"Memories"

Hosted by: Sequoia Classic Thunderbird Club
May, 17th, 18th, & 19th, 2018

***HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Marriott at the Visalia Convention Center – 300 S. Court Street, Visalia, Ca., Reservations 559-636-1111 (800-228-9290);
Refer to: Sequoia Classic T-Bird Club QC (reference code – M-92TT11Y). Room Rates: \$169.00
Deadline to secure rate – April 1, 2018

Registration Fee: \$50.00- if received by April 15, 2018 \$60.00-if received after April 15, 2018

Thursday, May 17, 2018

4 to 6PM – Hospitality Room & Registration Packets
Dinner on your own; see list of restaurants within walking distance

Friday, May 18, 2018

7AM to 10AM – Hospitality Room

11AM to 2PM – Blain's Motorsports Foundation Tour with lunch –
"All You Can Eat – Taco Truck" \$20 per person

Attending _____ \$ _____

4:30PM - President's and Editor's Meeting: Location to be announced
3PM to ? - Shopping in downtown Visalia – Dinner on your own

Saturday, May 19, 2018

7AM to 10AM – Hospitality Room

8AM to 10:30AM – Show & Shine – turn in ballots

11AM to 2PM – Poker Run & Lunch in Three Rivers

Extra hand @ \$5.00: # extra hands _____

\$ _____

Lunch: \$17.00 per person

___ Double Cheese Burger w/fries

___ Smoked Turkey Sandwich w/fries

___ Crispy Cod Fish Filet (2 Pc.) Basket w/fries & slaw

#Attending _____ \$ _____

6PM to 7PM – Happy Hour (No host bar)

7PM to 9PM – QC Banquet, Awards, & Raffle - \$55.00 per person

___ Chicken Marsala w/rice pilaf and wild rice blend

___ New York Strip Loin Medallion w/ garlic mashed potatoes

#Attending _____ \$ _____

9PM to 11PM – Floor Show featuring James "Sinatra" Hitchcock and the "the music of legends"

Total Paid \$ _____

Please Print:

Names: Driver: _____ Passenger: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____ CTCL: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

Thunderbird information: Year: _____ Color: _____

Club Name: _____ Email address: _____

Mail completed registration form and fees (Payable to Sequoia Classic T-Bird Club) to:

Jack or Lillie Armistead, 5275 N. Maroa Av. Fresno, Ca. 93704

Home #: 559-439-2071 Jack's Cell #: 559-303-3437

e-mail address: lmarmistead@comcast.net

Check # _____ Date Received: _____

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FEBRUARY 2018

CTCI International Convention

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CLASSIC
Thunderbird CLUB
55-56-57

Aug. 15-19, 2018 Knoxville, TN
GATEWAY TO THE SMOKIES

Thunder 'n Lightnin'
in the Smokies

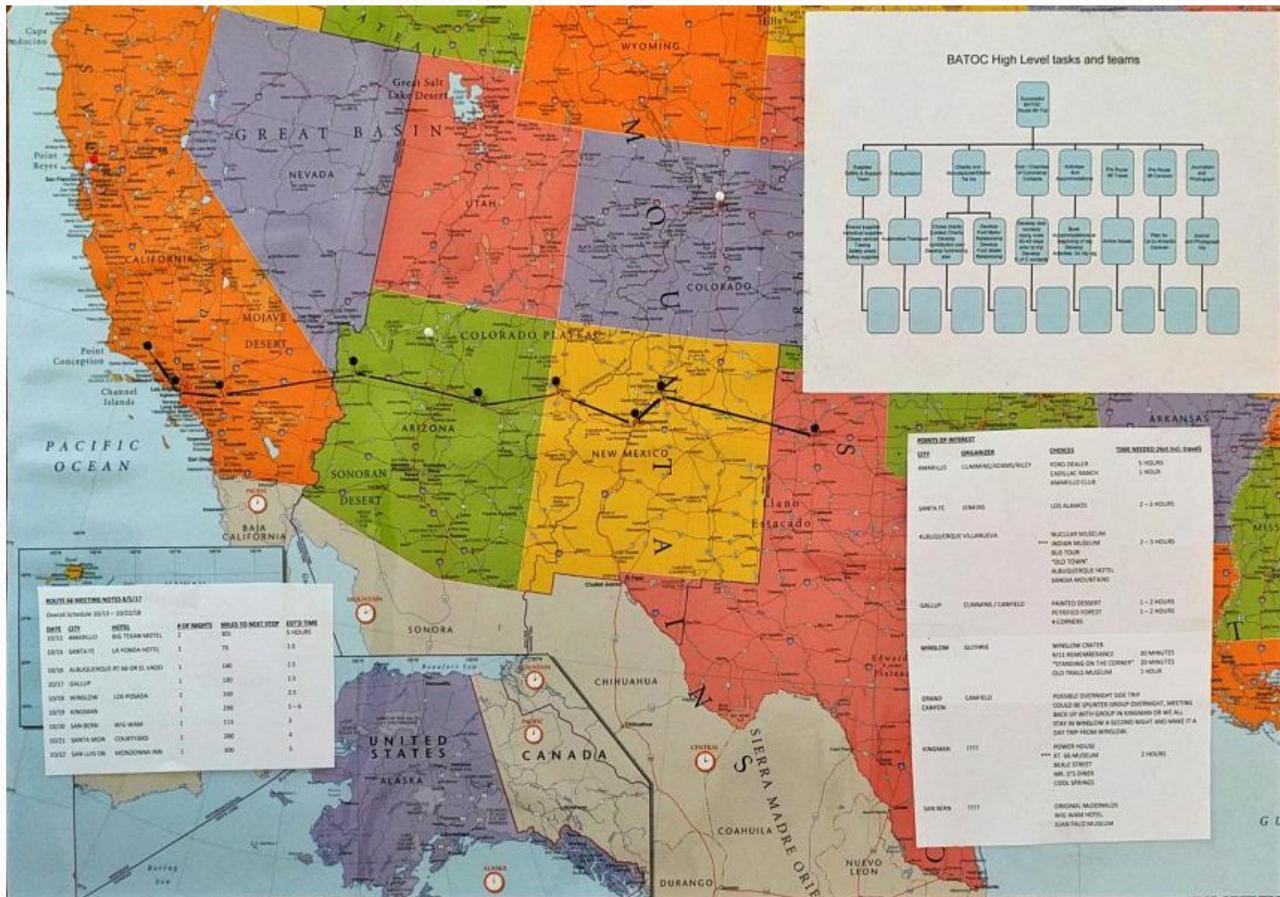
[Click here for More Info](#)

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Route 66 Trip in October



Tentative Schedule

Oct 5,6 Amarillo
 Oct 7,8 Santa Fe
 Oct 9 Albuquerque
 Oct 10 Gallup
 Oct 11 Winslow

Oct 12 G Canyon/Williams
 Oct 13 Kingman
 Oct 14 San Bernardino
 Oct 15 Santa Monica
 Oct 16 San Luis Obispo

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Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club 2018 Calendar of Events

Winter – Meetings Jan 13 / Feb 10

- January 14 – President's Mystery Tour (Adams)
- February 4 - Super Bowl Party, Livermore (Guthrie)

Spring – Meetings Mar 10 / Apr 14 / May 12

- March 10 - Group Outing: Bowling (Guthrie)
- April 29 - Cruise (Benson)
- May XX – Sutter Creek (Riley)
- May 26 – BBQ (Cummins)

Summer – Meetings Jun 9 / Jul 14 / Aug 11

- June XX – Anniversary Party (TBA)
- July XX – Hot Summer Nights #1 – Danville (TBA)
- July 21 – Coppola Winery (Verhoek)
- August XX – Hot Summer Nights #2 – Danville (TBA)
- August 15 – CTCI International Conference, Knoxville, TN

Autumn – Meetings Sept 8 / Oct 13 / Nov 10

- Sept XX - XX – Run to the Redwoods (Dixon)
- Sept XX – Ironstone, Murphys, CA (Canfield)
- Sept XX - Birds on the Wharf, Santa Cruz (TBD)
- Oct 5 – 17 – Route 66 Trip
- Nov XX – Veterans Parade (Baumgarter)

Winter – Meeting Dec 8

- Dec XX – BATOC Holiday Party (Jenkins and Lloyd)

Events in Planning

Proposed Ideas / Hosts Needed

- August Car Show - Niles
- Delta Cruise (Haffner)
- Travis Airforce Base – (Baumgarter)



Updated 1/20/18

Ready to plan an event?
Let us know! marymac1234@gmail.com