



## Febary 2021 Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 2

**PAJARITO  
THUNDERBIRD  
CLUB**  
of  
**NEW MEXICO**  
Chapter 17 of CTCI

February 2021



It is February and we are excited to be getting back to our weekly breakfast meetings and monthly officer meetings as soon as Hello Deli re-opens. We will send out a quick blast as soon as the restaurant re-opens.

As a reminder, the breakfast meetings will be every Thursday at 8:00am and the officer's meeting is the first Thursday of every month at 11:30am at Hello Deli. **There will be no breakfast meeting on that first Thursday.**

At our first officer's meeting we will be discussing the ideas for group functions as soon as our state starts opening back up and members start getting vaccinated.

Spring is around the corner and it will be great to get our Thunderbirds back on the road and cruising again! As always, let the group know if you need any help with your car, or you're looking for parts, we all have stuff stashed if you need something.

Stay safe – see you soon!!



TRAE WOOD

# Driving the 1962 Budd XT-Bird

Posted on by [MCG](#)

Here's a rare look at a unique and seldom-seen prototype, the 1962 Budd XT-Bird, courtesy of The Henry Ford. Back in June here at Mac's Motor City Garage, we featured the Henry Ford Museum's Budd-American Motors XR-400 prototype, including a road-test video hosted by museum curator Matt Anderson. To make a long story short, the XT-Bird was essentially a '55-'57 Thunderbird body shell mounted on the unit-construction floor plan and chassis of a 1961 Ford Falcon. Budd, a specialist in body stampings, had supplied the exterior sheet metal for the original two-seat Thunderbird, and was hoping to revive the contract with an updated version. Customer surveys indicated that car buyers retained some warm feelings for the T-Bird two-seater, and Budd constructed the XT-Bird for a formal presentation to Ford executives, including North American product boss Lee Iacocca.

The prototype features a complete Thunderbird instrument panel and a '55-'56-type front end, while the rear-end styling is an interesting mashup of T-Bird and Falcon elements. But as we know today, Ford already had another Falcon-based sporty car under development—and it included a rear seat and therefore a much larger potential audience. Iacocca and crew gave the green light to the car that became the Mustang, and it proved to be the far wiser choice. All that remains of the XT-Bird project is this single intriguing prototype, which is now in the collection of the Henry Ford.



# Is the Thunderbird nameplate making a comeback?

Article written by Steven Symes on Motorious

Theories have been swirling around for some time that the Ford Thunderbird could make a return in many different forms. Those theories really took off recently with an interesting development. Ford recently filed the name with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The filing was done on January 13, fueling speculation about what it could mean. Here's the cold, hard facts: automakers routinely file trademarks for legacy names. For example, Ford has sat on the "Model E" name for a long, long time and consistently files to renew the trademark. That irked Elon Musk, who wanted to use the name for the third Tesla, which he finally called the Model 3 instead. You'll rightly note there is no Ford Model E in existence today and there might never be, but the automaker is keeping its options open. That could be all that's going on here, or it could be something else. Ford likely is trying to keep everyone guessing, especially the competition, because that's the name of the game.

If we want to entertain the prospect of the Thunderbird returning to the Ford lineup, the sad truth is it would likely to be used on a crossover. The Blue Oval is pretty much done making cars for North America, with the exception of the Mustang, so don't expect it to churn out some sexy coupe or convertible that isn't lifted and has a big tailgate. Also likely is that the Thunderbird name will be used on an electric vehicle. Ford is not beyond raiding the nostalgia bin to sell people on electrification, which has been clearly demonstrated by the Mustang Mach-E, an all-electric crossover.

The likelihood a new Ford Thunderbird would also be an electric crossover is quite high. That alone might be enough to make enthusiasts not so eager for the nameplate to return. There is another possibility: Ford could use the Thunderbird name as a trim level for an existing or new vehicle. You could be able to get a future Ford Mustang Mach-E Thunderbird where the T-Bird insignias light up with LEDs at night or some sort of nonsense. Or there might be a Ford Explorer Thunderbird in the near future. Isn't that an exciting idea? For now, all we know is Ford is sitting on the Thunderbird name. Whether or not it does something with it remains to be seen.





# Marketplace:

## NEEDS (from outside New Mexico):

Need a 3-speed Manual Transmission for '57 T-Bird. Contact Neil Swartz Either in good condition or at least rebuildable. 310-291-4834

## HAVES:

For Sale: Used rear anti-sway bar with Contact Allan Hastings mounting brackets, bushings & bolts. 214-608-8993 Fits a '55 or '56 T-Bird \$75. complete

For Sale: 1956/57 new old stock Contact Scott McGilvray T-Bird Steering Wheel: Black \$300. 214-341-3597

5 Wire wheel covers, 5 small hubcaps with white Centers, and 40 clips with rubber bumpers \$580.  
4 Ford factory 15" wheels—painted beautiful Contact Von Irwin Fiesta Red \$200. 214-507-0203

4 Wire Basket Hubcaps "without clips" Contact Charlie Difiglia Casco part 1130 \$275 lot 214-649-9849

4 Tail light bezels for a 1958-59 Squarebird, Good condition. Set of 4 for \$25.00 Contact Neil Swartz

5 blade fan, measures 18" diameter.

4 Bolt cuul59@gmail.com Pattern—fits most T-Birds. Good condition \$25.00 Frisco, Texas

Trunk lid hinge with spring for Square Birds. 310-291-4834 Needs to be cleaned of surface rust & painted. FREE! 4 used 14" OEM steel Wheels for sale. Good condition.

## Not so Local:

1969 Firebird being sold by Sam in Las Cruces.

Call 575-272-1500



## Home Decoration:

This guy decorated his living room with the nose of a 1972 Pontiac Grand Prix and his wife was cool with it.

What have you Thunderbird owners done?

Send photos to [Lloydpo@aol.com](mailto:Lloydpo@aol.com)



## Rear End Decoration:

Why add a continental to your '55 if you still leave the spare in the trunk?



## Valmet Thunderbird Glass Roof Concept in 2003

In 2003, Valmet Automotive presented at the Geneva Motor Show a new retractable concept car with glass roof. The Thunderbird Retractable Glass Roof has a fully automatic retractable roof with two glass panels. The structural parts of the panels are made of sheet metal and fully lined inside. The concept provides two models in one, top down a traditional convertible without restrictions and top up a hard top.





Caption needed for  
this photo:

Send to  
[Lloydpo@aol.com](mailto:Lloydpo@aol.com) or  
text to 505-280-3114



## Congrats:

Here are 12 things to consider as we get closer to closing the door on one of the most horrible years of our lifetimes:

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored, I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning, I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet, or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard. I'm getting tired of the living room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask, ask for money, and actually be given the money [without being arrested]!

I washed my hands so much due to CODVID19, that my exam notes from 1995 resurfaced



# CTCI's 2021 Galactic Virtual Convention

To All Members,

It appears that the second part of CTCI's news was overlooked by some in our previous email blast. Here it is again to ensure all members get a chance to see it.

## **CTCI Launches a Galactic Virtual Convention for 2021**

A full year of virtual fun and Chapter activities with Social Distancing in mind! All Thunderbirds are welcome. Submit your best T-Bird pix into your favorite category. All submissions are awarded with Pride (not prize). Watch for monthly updates and challenges for you and your Chapter to participate in!.

**\*\*We are also having a logo contest – put your creative mind in gear and submit a logo for consideration. Winning logo will be featured on hats, shirts & dash plaques.**

A special new web site has been created for the Virtual Convention: <https://cybirdspace.com>

For those members who prefer to go through Facebook, you can get on the CTCI site and follow the event link or use the attached link event link.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2098509523780916>

CTCI Board of Directors  
Brian Carron, President

*Note: If you would like help getting photos of your car for this event, please call me: Lloyd 505-280-31114*



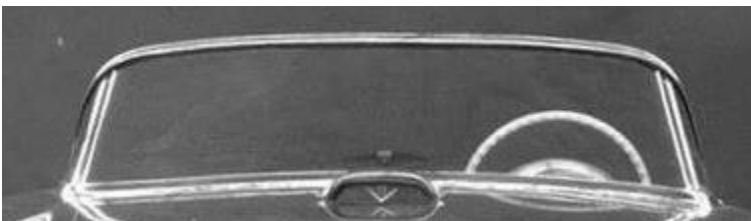
# SMALL BIRD WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT

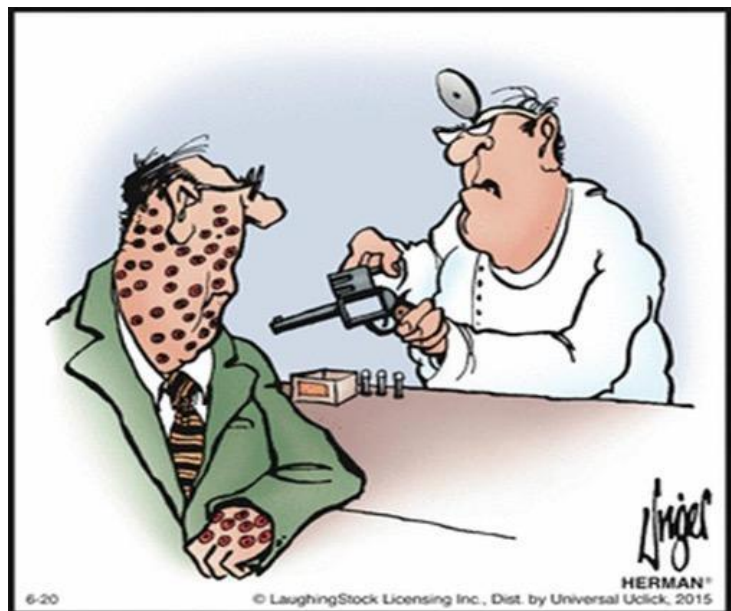
By Martin Bierman Nebraskaland

Thunderbird windshield is a project most T-Bird owners and hobbyists can perform themselves. One will need a new replacement windshield and windshield rubber seal. One may also want to have all the stainless moldings restored and the outer and inner dog-leg moldings re-chromed as part of this project. Start by removing the windshield wiper arms by pulling the arm outward and releasing the tab underneath at the base. Simultaneously carefully pry the arm off the wiper knob without marring the chrome bezel. Remove the inside mirror, sun visor brackets (if equipped), and top clamp receptacles from the upper frame. Remove the inner side dog-leg moldings, inner lower stainless moldings, and the inner upper stainless molding by removing the appropriate screws. Note the size and location of the screws since some are different lengths. Remove the weather-strip at the pillar interface on the outer dog-leg molding (3-4 very small screws); remove the side windshield molding clips and remove the screw from the retainer of the dog-leg to lower outer stainless molding; remove screws from outer dog-leg (3 or 4) and remove the dog-leg from the lower outer molding and the upper outer molding. Remove the upper outer molding by removing any screws from tabs (if present) and carefully prying the molding forward to release the clips in its underside from the retainer strips in the upper windshield area.

DO NOT remove these retainer strips or the lower outer windshield moldings from the rubber seal yet. These are removed only when the windshield has been removed from the car (see below). Take a utility knife and cut away the old windshield rubber seal from the inside of the windshield frame. Once this is done one can apply firm pressure to the inside lower area and push the windshield up and out. Use firm constant pressure and work slowly to avoid breaking the glass. Once the windshield is out of the car frame, remove the lower outer stainless moldings and the upper retainer strips from the rubber seal. Take note how they fit in the seal and clip under the glass for future installation. Dispose of the old windshield and rubber seal. Clean the frame of any sealant or debris so the new rubber seal lip will fit properly. Place the rubber seal on the windshield but do not glue it to the glass yet. Install the lower outer moldings and center clip and the upper retainers in the seal. Be sure these all clip under the glass. Install a small nylon cord all around the seal in the inside seal groove starting at the lower center part. As the end of the cord approaches the beginning of the cord overlap the two ends at the lower center area. Place the windshield in the frame. Two people are usually required for this part. Starting at the lower center seal area pull the nylon cord such that the rubber seal is pulled over the windshield metal frame lip. Have the second person apply firm pressure to the outside of the windshield while the cord is being moved. Continue this all around the windshield until one reaches the starting point in the lower center part. Don't worry if some areas of the seal do not fit over the frame lip especially at the windshield corners. Continue firm pressure and work the seal over the frame lip with a dull curved tool. (Don't tear the rubber seal with any sharp tool!).

Press the windshield into position and into the corners and have the rubber seal over the entire frame lip. Use black 3-M rope caulk at and over the rubber seal to frame interface on the outside top and down the outside dog-leg sides. Install the upper outer stainless molding by engaging the underside clips in the windshield retainers and pulling the molding over the frame. Install the outer dog-legs in the upper outer molding and into the lower outer molding using the retainers to connect to the lower moldings. Screw the retainers to the body and cover with the side clips. These clips notoriously fit poorly, and the reproduction clips fit even worse. Install the upper inner stainless molding, the inner side dog-legs, the lower inner moldings and the center clip with the correct screws. Install the weather-strip on the outer dog-legs; inside mirror; top clamp receptacles; and visor brackets (if equipped). Seal the outside rubber seal to the glass all around the windshield by placing the nozzle of windshield sealant tube between the glass and the rubber seal. Replace the wiper arms over the wiper knobs. Clean the glass and admire your work.





"I'm sure you'll agree, we don't want an epidemic."



Went to my first social distancing Christening last Sunday



I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's 7 years in a row now.





**Just spent 15 minutes searching for my phone in my car.**

**While using my phone as a flashlight.**





