THUNDERWORD

MAY 2023 VOL. 43 ISSUE 11

VTCI GOLD 2022 MAY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Reinke II

May is now upon us but we all know that means more snow will come!! The trees will begin to bud and the bulbs will start to grow. Spring in the Rockies will be here soon. Mystery Cruise #90 was on March 25th which took the 21 RMTC members and one guest to the storage/garage of David Fitzgerald located at about Evans and Sheridan Blvd. David showed us some of the collectible cars in his collection or stored at his facility. Only 4 t-birds braved the cold weather, as our Mystery Cruise continued to the Breckenridge Brewery in Littleton. We were treated to a guided tour of the brewery and given samples of their beer. After the tour, we had lunch at the Brewery's Restaurant. All participants received a list of the 90 Mystery Cruises and a commemorative dash plaque. Thanks to Jim Merritt for setting up this interesting Mystery Cruise!

There is only one event scheduled for April which is Mystery Cruise #91. The venue scheduled was not open so we had to change where we will be going on April 29th. As usual we will meet at the Lookin Good Restaurant at 8am for breakfast and depart at 9am to who knows where??

May begins with our annual BIRD BATH overnighter, which will take us to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The fun begins on Friday the 5th with the drive down. Laurie Sarno has put together a variety of things to do on Saturday the 6th and Sunday the 7th. We will be returning to Denver on Monday the 8th. We have approximately 30 people with reservations for this event. Also on May 6th is the Lincoln Tech Car Show with 900 vintage vehicles!! Contact Ernie Tange at 303-238-0381, if you want to park together at the event. May is the Speciality Auto Auction in Greeley. If you would like to drive or organize cars in the auction, which is a fundraiser for the club, contact Jim Merritt at 303-472-1328. May 21st is the Annual Thunderbird Appreciation Day! After a short cruise and photo shoot, we will try to arrive at the Brass Armadillo Antique Mall around 10am to display our Thunderbirds on the front lawn till 3pm.

July 2022-June 2023

OFFICERS

Pres. Don Reinke II 303-589-2232
V. P. Jim Merritt 303-472-1328
Sec. Sheri Muehlbauer 720-841-4163
Treas. **VACANT**

DIRECTORS

Director Dave Stambaugh 303-730-9078
Director Dave Sarno 720-244-4921
Door Prizes **Vacant**
Membership Cecilia Merritt 303-472-1328
Graphics Greg Akiyama 303-910-8454
RMTC Store Laurie Sarno 720-244-4921
CCCC Rep Ernie Tangye 303-238-0381
Newsletter Barb Hendricks 303-770-5799
Greetings Sheryl Murphy 303 512-3333
Historian: Barb Hendricks 303-770-5799
WebMasters Jim Merritt 303-472-1328
Debbie Spickard 303-877-6615
Bill Clay 303-627-2946
SWVTCI Director VACANT

RMTC Email:
thunderwordrmtc@gmail.com
RMTC Membership:
rmtcmembership@gmail.com
RMTC Website:
www.rmtbirds.com

RMTC FLICKR Photo site:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/rmtc/albums

RMTC Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Rocky-Mountain-Thunderbird-Club-102980618504998

Collector Car Council:
http://www.collectorcarcouncil.com

VTCI:
www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

Special Dash Plaques will be given to all participating Thunderbirds!! More details are in this newsletter!! Mystery Cruise #92 is scheduled for May 27th to who knows where??

The calendar of club events continues to come together for 2023!! If you have any ideas for a club event/parade/car show or Mystery Cruise, PLEASE let me know by calling or texting Don Reinke II at 303-589-2232. The RMTC Officers and Directors will continue to monitor and plan activities that will keep member safety in mind!! Watch for emails with club information/ updates as they become available. If you have any problems, concerns or questions, PLEASE give me a call or text. As the venues continue to be scheduled, I am expecting 2023 to be another busy year for the RMTC membership!!

A summer of fun is ahead of us, will your bird be ready??

Don Reinke II RMTC President 2003 - 2024

CLUB EVENTS & MEETINGS

Most events are on a Saturday. Different days and changes are in bold print.

05/06	Saturday	7am-3pm	Lincoln Tech Annual Car Show, Denver
05/5-8			**2023 BIRD BATH, Santa Fe, NM**
05/13	Saturday	7am-5pm	Speciality Auto Auction, Greeley, CO
05/21	**SUNDAY**	7am-3pm	THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY, Brass Armadillo, Denver
05/27	Saturday	9am-3pm	May Mystery Cruise #92, Lookin Good Restaurant, Denver
06/03	Saturday	9am-noon	June BOD meeting, Lookin Good Restaurant, Denver
06/17	Saturday	10am-3pm	Father's Day Car Show, Auto Restoration Masters, Denver
06/24	Saturday	9am-3pm	June Mystery Cruise Lookin Good Restaurant, Denver
06/25	**SUNDAY**	8am-2pm	FOMOCO Car Show/Picnic, Arapaho Park
07/04	**THURSDAY**	7:30am-3pm	Highlands Ranch 4th of July Parade, Highlands Ranch
07/08	Saturday	11am-3pm	Annual RMTC Picnic and Elections, Sterne Park, Littleton
07/29	Saturday	9am-3pm	July Mystery Cruise Lookin Good Restaurant, Denver
08/05	Saturday	7am-3pm	CCCC Car Show, Rocky Mtn Metro Airport, Broomfield
08/16-19			**2023 VTCI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, Cartersville, GA**

Sheri Muehlbauer

SECRETARY

To read copies of minutes from the Board of Directors meetings and Member Meetings, contact the secretary at 720-841-4163 or smuehlbauer@msn.com for a copy.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Cecilia Merritt

****DUES ARE DUE JUNE 30****

Please join me in welcoming our newest member!
Thomas & Joanne Neid Tom & Joanne live in Colorado Springs and currently do not own a thunderbird but are looking forward to getting one in the future. Tom was in contact with Don and he and a friend came and joined us at lunch at Breckenridge Brewery during the March mystery cruise. It was there he got to meet many of the members and decided to join. We look forward to seeing him and Joanne at many future events. Welcome Tom & Joanne!

*** REMINDER ***

Membership dues are due by July 1 st . Our membership year ends June 30th so please make a note to renew your membership BEFORE July 1st . I sent emails out to everyone that previously paid for multiple years and your dues are NOT due at this time (8 members) so if you did not receive an e-mail your dues are probably dues. A dues renewal form is included with this nesletter. For those who get your newsletter mailed, **CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.** If it shows 6/23 in the upper right hand corner, your dues are due again this year. If you have any questions please contact me at RMTCmembership@gmail.com. I want to thank everyone for their membership and keeping our club active and fun.

Don't forget to keep us up to date with your email addresses and please wear your name tag at all club events.

COLORADO COLLECTOR CAR COUNCIL

Ernie Tangye

The April 5th meeting of CCCC was held at the Colorado Springs Falcon Police Station. Leo Boyle did not attend so there was no legislative report.
CCCC Car Show and Swap Meet will be held at Rocky Mtn Metro Airport on August 5th. The Viet Nam Helicopters will be showing their copter. A large tent will be available for attendees to use for eating and to get out of the sun. The Colorado State Patrol will have four vintage patrol cars on display, as well as vintage motorcycles and vintage campers.
Concours d' Elegance on June 4, 2023 at ACC: Tom Scott of Concours d' Elegance will be contacting the CCCC representative for each club to ask for people to bring their cars to the Evolution of the Automobile. Several representatives stated that most likely their club would not participate due to the high cost of admission ($50 per car) **CCCC will be the featured car club** for April at Gateway Classic Cars, 14150 Grasslands Dr, unit A, Englewood, CO. The show date is April 29th at 8:00 am. Coffee and donuts will be served to the drivers of the cars.
Forney Transportation Museum will be featuring vintage firetrucks with the help of the Hook & Ladder Club.
The **Lincoln Technical College** is holding their annual show on May 5th in their parking lots. Register at: carshowpro.com.

RMTC BIRDBATH MAY 5-8 2023

Hopefully you have registered for this event if you are going. If not, contact Laurie Sarno at 720-244-4921 or email at landsarno58@gmail.com

10th Annual Lincoln Tech Car Show

MAY 6, 2023 8am-4pm

Lincoln Tech-Denver Campus, 11194 E. 45th Ave
Denver, Co 80239
Admission is free!
Contact Steve Hatch (SteveVHatch@gmail.com) for more info.

Meet RMTC members at McDonald's, 4475 Peoria St, Denver, CO 80239 (NW side of Peoria & 45th) for 7AM departure to the show. Arrive earlier if you want to eat! Food Trucks will be on site at Lincoln Tech.

DAY OF EVENT RMTC CONTACT: Ernie Tangye 720-208-8230

Specialty Auto Auction

May 13, 2023 8AM-6PM
Island Grove Regional Park
501 N 14th Ave.
Greeley CO 80631.
Contact Jim at email (jamit793@gmail.com) or call (303-472-1328) to sign up

MAY MYSTERY CRUISE

MAY, 27, 2023

Meet fellow RMTC members at Lookin Good Restaurant at **8:00** for breakfast (1st and Sheridan). Drivers Meeting at **8:45** am in the Lookin Good Parking (66 Sheridan Blvd, Denver) lot. Get your driving directions and head out at **9am NORTH** to who knows where! ???Contact Don R 303-589-2232 Northern members watch for an email with meet up specifics!!!!

Annual THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY

May 21, 2023

Meet fellow RMTC members at the McDONALD'S (Prince & Belleview) for a **8:00 am** cruise departure to Brass Armadillo. Arrive earlier if you want to have a bite to eat! Greg A. will do a group T Bird photo at 8:30 enroute to the display destination. Questions, call Don Reinke II 303-589-2232
Display at: BRASS ARMADILLO
11301 W Interstate 70 Frontage Rd N Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
from **10:30am-3pm**

DO NOT ARRIVE AT BRASS ARMADILLO BEFORE 10 AM!!!

JUNE UPCOMING EVENTS

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, **June 17, 2022** 10am - 3pm

AUTO RESTORATION MASTERS
1930 S QUEBEC ST #106
DENVER, CO

Box lunches (sandwich, chips, pickle, cookie, water) will be available for participants ($10-12) **with rsvp** reservation. Notify Don R 303-589-2232 by 6/10 to ensure you have lunch.

JUNE MYSTERY CRUISE

June 24, 2023

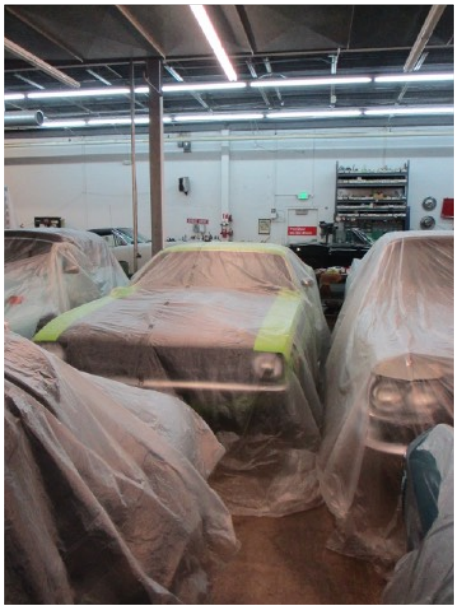
Meet fellow RMTC members at Lookin Good Restaurant at **8:00** for breakfast (1st and Sheridan). Drivers Meeting at **8:45** am in the Lookin Good Parking (66 Sheridan Blvd, Denver) lot. Get your driving directions and head out at **9am SOUTHEAST** to who knows where! ???Contact Don R 303-589-2232

ALL FORD PICNIC SUNDAY
JUNE 25
8am-3pm
Arapahoe Park
4450 Indiana St
Golden 80403

RMTC WILL DEPART at **8am** from Burger King, 49th & Kipling so all the Birds can park together! ??s: Don Reinke II 303-589-2232

PAST EVENTS

90th MYSTERY CRUISE



First stop: Dave Fitzgerald's Car Hotel, then on to Breckenridge Brewery to learn how beer is brewed. Lunch after in the Brewery restaurant

90th Mystery Cruise
March 25, 2023
21 Members
1 guest
4 TBirds
(due to snow!!!)

Nat Littlejohn

September 20, 1949 - March 19, 2023

Nat grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina where he went to high school and attended a year of college. Then he moved to Richmond, Virginia and joined the Marine Corps and was stationed at Paris Island, Camp Lejeune, Quantico, Camp Pendleton and Okinawa, Japan. After being discharged from the Marine Corps, he moved to Denver. Nat worked in the computer industry for 44 years. doing a lot of different jobs from truck driver and carpenter to computer programmer and systems engineer to software sales, technical sales manager and sales manager. In 1984, work took him to England where he met his wife, Jeannette. They moved back to Denver in 1986.

Travel was his number-one interest. He vacationed on all seven continents and loved planning the next holiday adventure.. Also of great interest was his volunteering time at both Castlewood Canyon State Park and with The Denver Trolly. Castlewood Canyon Visitors Center reported Nat provided 3,914 hours worth of volunteering since 2014 mostly while welcoming park visitors at the Visitor Center window.

In the past few years Nat purchased a 1963 Thunderbird which he had brought back to prime working condition. He and Jeannette became active members in the Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club. Nat was always willing to drive cars at the RMTC auto action fundraisers and assist in other functions of the club as needed. He also spent a brief time on the Board of Directors. Sadly, he suffered a massive heart attack on March 19.

All of his interests demonstrate his incredible curiosity and energy towards life. He will be missed by so very many people, but more deeply by his wife Jeannette.

Roger Freels

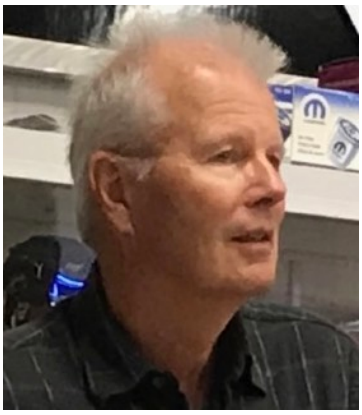
Dec. 28, 1944-January 18, 2023

Roger was a 1963 graduate of Daviess County High School, and graduated from Pasadena College in California. He retired from his position as a pharmaceutical representative with Johnson & Johnson after 28 years. He also served as a pastor in Nebraska, California, Colorado, and served as a chaplain for the Colorado State Patrol in Denver.

Roger was an avid UK fan! A very adventurous personality led him to obtaining his pilot's license. He also enjoyed many hobbies including his prize-winning 1957 whiteThunderbird convertible, hunting, fishing, camping, RVing, and traveling. He was pleased to have accomplished visiting every presidential library and, most of all, watching and sharing time with his sons and grandchildren. He fought a hard-battle with cancer.

Roger is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judi; 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, and 1great-grandchild, 5 siblings, 1 sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

RMTC REMEMBERS



Paul John Darcy

November 4, 1948 – April 6, 2023

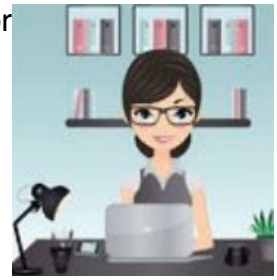
Paul Darcy passed peacefully in his sleep on the morning of April 6, 2023. His wife Jeannie and sons Dan and David were at his side. Paul was an elementary school teacher for 29 years, and 'moonlighted' in the summers restoring old cars. He never met a Thunderbird convertible top that he couldn't fix! Paul and Jeannie were charter members of the RMTC and loved the many friendships of 'car guys and gals' they met along the way.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

NO MAY BOD
DUE TO EVENTS!!!

RMTC desperately needs members to fill 1 **director** spot and the **TREASURER** position. The Director duties include organizing door prizes at 3 events throughout the year. Spreading the work around keeps this club busy and active! CAN YOU HELP!!

BARB"s BITS



Car Event Season is upon us! Get your car polished up and join in the many many activities RMTC has planned for the spring/summer months.

PLEASE let a BOD member know if you hear of an event the club should be a part of!

RENEW YOUR DUES (form included) by 6/30/2023!!!! Renewal form is also on website.

RMTC GOOD WISHES TO:

- Karen Thiesman with recent cataract surgery
- Cristy Caswell with on going health issues
- Ernie Tangye celebrating his 93rd birthday
- Ron Theisman celebrating his 85th birthday

RMTC SYMPATHY TO:

- The family of Roger Freels who passed in January
- The family of Nat Littlejohn who passed in March
- The family of Paul Darcy on his passing 4/6/2023

OTHER GOINGS ON:

06/03	All Ford Swap Meet, Adams County Historical Society, Brighton 720-289-2896
06/04	Conours de Elegance, $50 Arapahoe Community College, Littleton
06/10	Pharaohs Car Club Show Shops at Northfield 720-276-5754
06/10	41st Annual Canon Car Club Car Show, Abbey, Canon City AllEvents.in
06/11	Veteran's Appreciation Car Show, $35 Colorado Springs 303-726-2826
06/14-17	Rocky Mountain Mustang Round Up, Cripple Creek, rockymountainmustangroundup.org
08/18	Gunnison Car Show, gunnisoncarclub.com
08/26	Morgan Adams Foundation Concourrs, Centennial Airport 6-10pm

COUNTRY STORE

Laurie Sarno

Owner Specific Antennae Flags,
Christmas Tree Ornaments, Earrings,
Bracelets, Pendants, Vinyl Clings
RMTC decal, RMTC Iron-On logo

Mens & Ladies T Shirts
Ball Caps Blankets Visors
Satin or Fleece Jackets

Contact Laurie Sarno
(720-244-4921)
or landsarno58@gmail.com

CASH OR CHECK only

Satin Jackets are available as special order item. Pre Paid Price is $90 each. Please let Laurie Sarno know what size.

RMTC **SWEATSHIRTS and POLOs**
ALSO AVAILABLE by special order

For Sale: 1963 Thunderbird hardtop, M-Code (three two-barrel carbs). Silver Mink with red interior. All power options including air conditioning. 100,700 miles. New tires. Very straight, no rust or body damage. Asking $24,000 negotiable. Call Jeannette at 303-882-7864.

07/22

For Sale: 1963 Thunderbird Sports Roadster convertible. Factory ID'd, in the Rocky Mountain Tbird Club since the early '80s! New wire wheels with new wide-white American Classic tires, new emblems and floor mats, and much more. Only 455 of these classics built in 1963! Asking $40K/offer. Contact Jeannie Darcy, 970-481-6710 12/22

FOR SALE: Raven Black/Colonial White top 1956 Baby Bird. Excellent condition with mechanic records. Odometer reads: 16,240 mi All options available eon new including 312 V8 engine, auto trans, power steering, telescoping steering wheel, power seats, power windows, seatbelts, Town & Country radio/clock VIN#: P6FH316401. Coker radial tires, porthole windows, continental kit Original factory invoice and manual. $28,000 Contact Paul 303-956-2329 or Karen 303-262-3133 09/22

T-BIRD PARTS FOR SALE: Over the years, I have accumulated many parts for 58 – 97 T-Birds. My hoard includes hub caps, emblems, scripts and many misc types of interior and exterior trim. Call Don Reinke 303-589-2232

FOR SALE: Accepting bids on a 1960 Ford Thunderbird. 352 Engine, blue-gray color, original pail, all chrome rust fee. Interior is clean and original. Sone owner since 1974. Car is in Castle Pines. Call Eugene at 303-660-9372.

RMTC members for sale ad remain free or $10.00 with a Black& White picture. Non-Member ads are available for $5.00 per month or $20.00 a month with Black and White pictures. All ads will run for 3 months in both the Thunderword and online at **WWW.RMTBIRDS.COM**. Ad will be deleted unless editor is notified. Please notify if the item is sold so that ad can be pulled. To post, write details of item with contact information and check for full amount to "RMTC". Then mail to RMTC PO Box 620284 Littleton, CO 80162-0284. Questions? Call either Jim at 303-472-1328 or Barb at 303-770-5799 ThunderwordRMTC@gmail.com

BUSINESS ADS

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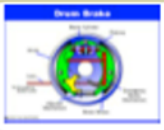
Petersen SPECIALTY
RUBBER STAMPS SIGNS SEALS ENGRAVING
4900 Iris Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
(303) 422-9032
sales@petersenspecialty.net
www.petersenspecialty.net
Custom office signs, stamps, name badges, promotional products and more.

06/23
We help you make a great impression!

The classified and business card ads found in the Thunderword do not constitute an endorsement by the RMTC. They are provided as a service for our members.

COSTUME & HALLOWEEN SUPERSTORE
5663 S. Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-5006
Fax: 303-798-8614
E-mail: reinkebrothers@msn.com
REINKE BROS
It's Not Just A Store... It's An Adventure!
www.reinkebrothers.com
Located on the corner of S. Prince & Main Street
Just 1-1/2 blocks north of the Littleton Light Rail Station
Costumes • Masks • Props • Make-up • Magic • Unique Gifts
Gag Gifts • Theatrical Props, Sets & Lighting • Party Planners

Devora Tree Service
Removals, Trimming,
Stump Grinding & Bush Removals
Jeremy Collins
720.635.0194
devoratreeservice@gmail.com
Facebook search @dtscolorado
01/24

06/23
1955 thru mid 1970's Thunderbird Repair
Convertible tops, electrical, engine, suspension, brakes... you name it!
Can also work on other models of the same year!
Auto Repair by Nick 1-719-362-6786
$85.00 per hour


PJ'S AUTO 50+ YEARS

DAVE 720-244-4921
landsarno58@gmail.com
06/23

Do you know someone who could benefit from an ad in the Thunderword? RMTC Member Business card ads are $25/year/ad. Non-Member Business card ads are $50/year/ad. Larger ads: 1/4 page $77.00 per year, 1/3 page $131.00 per year, & 1/2 page $152.00 per year. All ads will run in both the Thunderword and online at **WWW.RMTBIRDS.COM**. To post, write details of item with contact information, and check for full amount to "RMTC". Then mail to RMTC PO Box 620284 Littleton, CO 80162-0284. Questions? Call either Jim Merritt at 303-477-1328 or Barb at 303-770-5799. You can also send an email to: ThunderwordRMTC@gmail.com

Rocky Mountain Thunderbird Club
P. O. Box 620284
Littleton CO 80162-0284

FIRST CLASS MAIL

VTCI INTERNATIONAL 2023 CONVENTION

August 16-19, 2023
Marriott Courtyard
Cartersville, GA
Judging and Show Field to be held at:
Savoy Auto Museum
Cartersville, GA
More information at:
www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net