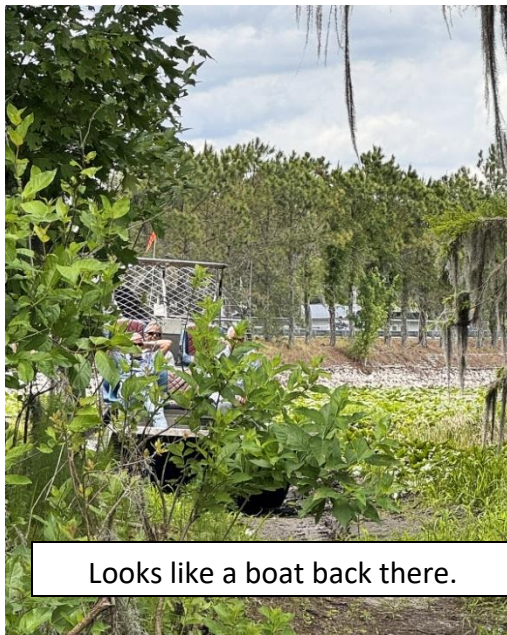


THUNDER ROAD, VOL 41

The Central Florida Thunderbird Club

www.cfctc.net

On Wednesday, April 22, a group of our members went on an airboat tour and then had lunch at The Cove in Inverness. We had a perfect day, weather-wise, to be outside celebrating Earth Day. It is baby alligator season and we saw lots of them! One boat did get stuck in the mud but our boat captain was able to help get it unstuck. Because of the drought, water level is extremely low & even airboats can get stuck. Lunch at The Cove is always good. Thanks to Don and Vicky LaPierre for making all the arrangements. Another fun day spent with friends.





MAY EVENT – THURSDAY, MAY 21, GYPSY GOLD HORSE FARM.

Meet at 9am, Mulberry Shopping Plaza on Rt 42. Leave for Farm at 9:15.
Please read the attached flyer about this. Fun, educational and gorgeous horses.

Welcome to our new members:

- + Terry Bowcock – Red '57, Winter Garden
- + Ron and Jana Amsler, White '57 Oklawaha
- + Wiley Davis – Dusk Rose '57, Winter Park
- + Bob Kelley, '57, Crystal River
- + Rocky Rockholt, Black '55, Lady Lake
- + Tracy Parks, '05 Anniversary Blue, The Villages
- + Stephanie Belany, Blue '04
- + Richard and Rosemanry Jones, White '03 The Villages
- + Vincent Cieccka & Julia Weber, Yellow '02, Red '02 The Villages
- + Robert Stlanton, '04, The Villages
- + Brian Canada, White '02, Leesburg
- + Henderson Eads, Blue '02 The Villages
- + James Harris, Blue '02, St. Pete
- + Steve Wido, '02 Neiman Marcus Edition,

WELCOME ALL – Some of you have already been to one of our meetings or events – the Airboat & Lunch. So good to meet you and am looking forward to meeting the rest of our newcomers.

On Monday - May 4 @ 11am -12pm there will be a Meet and Greet meeting of the new members and the board of trustees

Meeting will be about:

Where to order shirts & Name tags

Club referrals for work on your Birds etc.

Learn about upcoming events

There's always a good lunch @ Gio's Deli. We meet in the back room. – Gio's is located at 3975 CR 201, Oxford.

Please RSVP Ralph @ rotaryralph@hotmail.com

Cell - 352 322 9686 any Q,s

You do not have to drive your T- Bird to the meeting

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MONTHLY CAR SHOW:

At this time no one knows the status of the 3rd Saturday-of-the-month Spanish Springs car show. Seems hard to believe that this well-attended top event of 25 + years may no longer happen!

However, John, at Innovative Concrete located in the Spruce Creek Strip Mall on 441 has made a valiant effort to replace it. On the 3rd Saturday of the month, 4-7 PM! He has a 50/50 drawing, music **and** he feeds the entire group of participants! And, cars of ALL years are accepted. WOW!

Craig, Larry Dambrose and I have been attending and on Saturday, April 18th, ten of our Fabulous Thunderbirds showed up! In addition to our 3 Birds: Larry Witte had his new '57 Bronze Bird, Carlos Wentworth his show quality '57 Red E Bird, Doug Terry, '55 Red, Frank and Marcie with their black 1960 square Bird. Stuart came down from Ocala with his Merlot retro and Marty & Sue brought the Pink Lady '57- Dusk Rose. Former member Don, who is rejoining the Club, had a pristine 1979 Star Mist Blue with only 8k Miles on it.

I encourage more of our members to attend!

Ralph Cowell '56 Peacock Blue/02 Teal Blue





FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 5-8PM, SUMTER LANDING –

WE HAVE 52 SPACES FOR THE CAR SHOW.

CARS OF ALL YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE. THIS WILL BE THE BIGGEST SHOW OF THE YEAR IN THE VILLAGES. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO FILL ALL THOSE SPACES. RSVP: RALPH – ROTARYRALPH@HOTMAIL.COM

Below: Al Saikkonen sent this beautiful picture. He says: I asked ChatGPT to create a picture of a black 2003 t-bird in front of the villages sign. .took AI about 5 seconds..scary but kinda neat.



Craig and Doug at Classic Car Club show at Sumter Landing,



This is from Sandy Thomas:

I had read on the 2002-2005 Ford Thunderbird FaceBook page about several instances where the spare tires have blown while in the trunk. Some of those had additional damage depending on which way the blown out tire was facing. Some had damage to the batteries, some to the side of the wheel well, etc..

The previous owner of our bird had said he put on new tires in 2022. We didn't think to check the spare, assuming he meant all of the tires. He did not buy a new spare. Our fault for not checking the DOT on the tire but, it looked brand new having never been used/taken out of the trunk.

We went to drive the car Thursday and the battery was dead. That surprised us as we'd driven it regularly. When we lifted the spare tire cover to get to the battery that's when we saw the spare had blown out and it blew facing the battery. Our mechanic said the tire blast must have hit the battery cable and broke one wire within the cable causing the battery then to leak acid at the post and drain the battery charge. We had some acid in the tire well which we got cleaned up before it did much more than ate some of the paint off.

We got a good six years out of that battery and now we have a new one as well as a new spare tire.

When reading further, it is suggested you check the DOT date of the tire and regardless of the tire having ever been used it should be replaced every 6-10 years, and definitely if over 10 years old.

Lesson learned: check the date on the tire and replace it if aged out to preclude other damage in the future and additional expenditures. Thank you, Sandy



Photo of Sandy and Blake's spare tire. Ouch!!