

CLASSIC THUNDERBIRDS OF SAN DIEGO

THE BIRDS EYE VIEW



From the President

March, 2022

As we spring forward into March, we are starting to ramp up some activities. On Wednesday, March 23 there are several activities to choose from. A neighboring club, The EarlyBirds of Southern Cal. is driving to Carlsbad to check out the Museum of Making Music followed by a no host lunch at the Green Dragon Tavern. I am told you can get a good view of the Carlsbad flower fields which are peaking right now from the museum parking lot. For more details, please contact Carol Noyes. By the way, Gary Noyes is doing very well on his road to recovery. The other choice is a car cruise with the Early V8 Club. If interested, contact John Davison for details. Make sure that you register for the Motorcars on MainStreet car show in Coronado on Sunday, May 1st. Traditionally this has been a very popular club event. It is one of my favorite shows of the year due to the eclectic variety of cars on display. Even if you don't show your car, come out and check out the show, you will find it well worth the time. The weather is usually very nice and you can't beat the venue.

I am working with the Cajon Cruise group as they would like to feature our club on one of their upcoming Wednesday Cruise Nights. I will have a date very soon. I will be also contacting Cruisin' Grand to get a date to feature Thunderbirds for their Friday Night this summer. Our club has also committed to providing coffee and donuts for the Garden of Innocence Car Show on Sunday, June 26th. This is a very worthy cause and a great car show. If you know of any shows that you think would be interesting for the club, please forward the information to Elaine Villalpando for the newsletter or contact me. I am always looking for new activities for the club. I also think it would be fun to do a Memorial Day weekend cruise again, so if anyone has an idea for a scenic route that would also include something meaningful for Memorial Day please let me know.

Speaking of Memorial Day, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the passing of long time member, Gary Dumas. In case you missed the email sent last month, Gary passed away in February. He was a long time member of Chapter 24, a past president, Parade Chair and recruited many members, including me, into the club. Gary proudly served many years in the US Navy. I know that I will miss his easy going attitude, humor and knowledge of Classic Thunderbirds. On behalf of Chapter 24, I send heartfelt condolences to his wife Cheryl and his family. Look for more information on Gary's remarkable life further in this newsletter.

Just a reminder to check your emails as events, times and places may change due to fluidity of the times we live in. While things concerning the pandemic are still up in the air, we have to be a little more patient. On the other hand, I think our club has done a fantastic job of keeping up to date as well as being connected to one another. Any ideas for activities are always appreciated. Also, if you and your T-Bird have been out and about, please send a short story and photo to Elaine and Mitch Villalpando for the newsletter and annual slideshow.

Thank you,

David Durrill, President

Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego Calendar of Events



- March 23rd** Museum of Making Music/lunch with Early Birds of So. Cal 10am
- March 27th** Regular meeting Liberty Station Park (corner of Roosevelt Rd and Historic Decator)
- April 24th** Regular meeting TBA/Fabulous Fords Forever at Irwindale Speedway.
- May 1st** Motor Cars on Main Street (**Pre-register online ASAP**)
- May 22nd** Regular meeting TBA
- May 30th** Memorial Day Cruise
- June 26th** Regular Meeting at Garden of Innocence Car Show (El Camino Memorial Park)
- July 24th** Regular Meeting TBA
- August 12-14** Big Bear Fun Run
- September 10th** Pageant of the Thunderbirds, La Palma Park Anaheim
- October 25th - 30th** 2022 CTCI International Convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas

Please watch for emails of added events or changes



View car; make offer.

Black 1955 Thunderbird for sale. Been stored for quite a while, so it's not running (but may be easy to get it going).

One-family car -- owner's Dad bought it new!

Contact David DeVol at 858-204-9456. Car is in La Mesa.



Unfortunately there will not be any cars featured at the fair this year!

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MotorCars on MainStreet

Sun, May 01 | Coronado

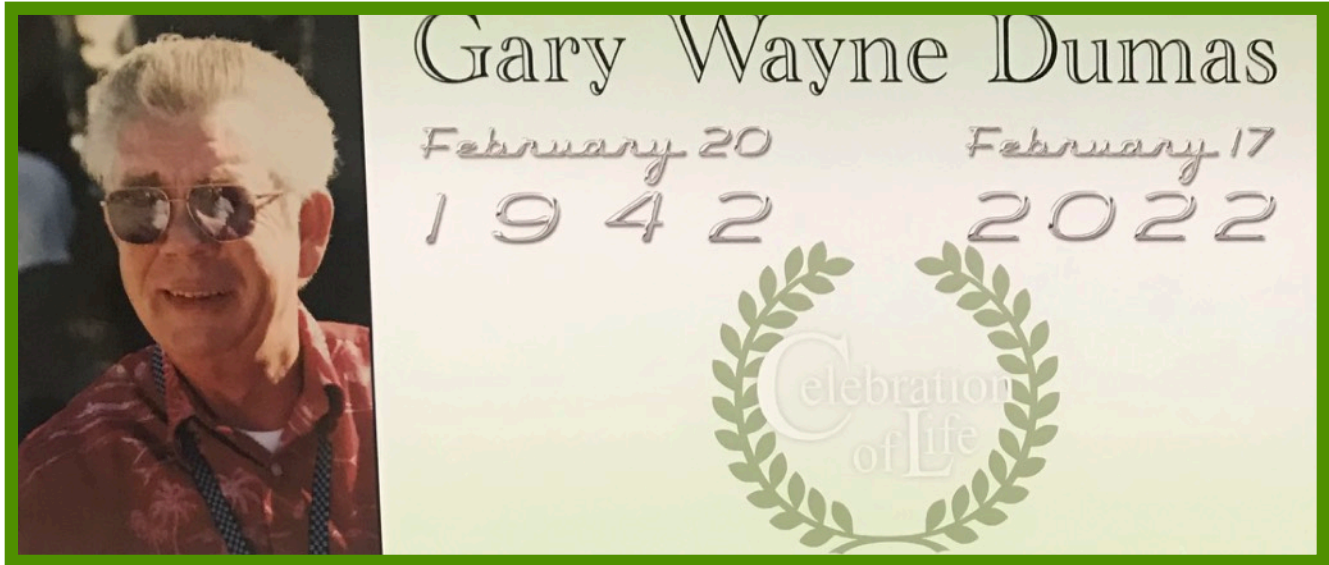
Motorcars on MainStreet 2022

Motorcars on MainStreet is back live for 2022! Register now! Limited to 400 Pre-73 Rods, Customs, Classics & Trucks.

[Register now!](#)

Time & Location

May 01, 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Coronado, 1000 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA 92118, USA



Remembering our Friend, Gary Dumas

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Gary grew up one of four kids in a family focused on construction, engineering and oil exploration, eventually living in both Michigan's upper peninsula and Minnesota.

He enlisted in the US Navy in August 1962 serving as a Hospital Corpsman, eventually retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. During which time he would be posted to duty stations in San Diego, California; Jacksonville, Florida; Portsmouth, Virginia; Memphis, Tennessee; Kingsville, Texas; Guam, Marianas Islands; and aboard the ships USS Navarro (APA-215); USS Princeton (LPH-5); and USS Acadia (AD-42).

During his Navy career he deployed to Vietnam in 1968, conducted the post-mission physicals on the Apollo 10 crew in 1969, and supported the mass evacuation operations in the wake of the collapse of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975.

By the end of his Navy career in 1982, he had earned the Navy Achievement medal, Navy Unit Commendation medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct medal (four awards), the National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Service medal (four awards) the Humanitarian Service medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal.

Following the Navy, Gary went to work in the pharmacy at Mercy hospital in Hillcrest while also attending National University where he later received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

The next chapter of his career started in 1985 when he became a pharmaceutical representative, with emphasis on oncology and HIV medications while serving hospitals and medical offices throughout Southern California.

In the late 1990's Gary finally chose to pursue his interest in classic cars, specifically a 1956 Ford Thunderbird that he bought to maintain, drive, and show. In addition to participating in parades and winning numerous awards, he would also serve as the President of The Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego County for two years. Though he was less active in club activities in the later years, he stayed involved with the club until recently.

Gary passed away in his Poway home on Thursday the 17th, he was 80 years old. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Cheryl, and their two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.





David Durrill's Thunderbird restoration is coming along nicely. It is mostly painted and starting to be put back together. The fun part is getting the new weather seals/rubber installed so the doors and trunk will close easily with the proper gaps. He hopes to have it back on the road soon!



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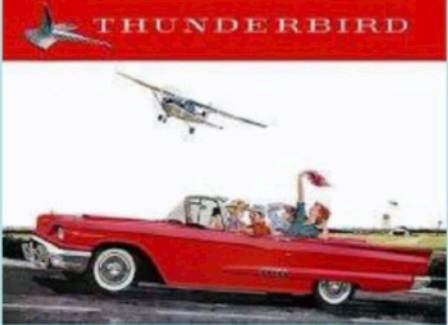


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**Club Meets 4th Sunday of the month
 unless otherwise noted. Check newsletter
 for location each month.**

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