



# 'lil' bird drop-ins

Modesto Area Classic Thunderbird Club, Inc.  
[modestotbirdclub.org](http://modestotbirdclub.org)



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH LUCK OF THE THUNDERBIRD

Sunday March 10 • 11:30 • Grizzly Rock Cafe • Turlock • Hosted By Jan

NEXT MONTH APRIL 14 - 12:00 - TBA - MODESTO - HOST: JIM & DONNA



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Wishing you a pot of gold  
and all the joy your heart can hold



*Next QC:*

### MODESTO CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Date: May 17-19 2024 • Location: Modesto



## OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

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**Give Away:** Keith & Elaine Rogers

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The club is on Facebook!

Visit Us

Modesto TBird Club



# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Hello Fellow T-Birders



Today I find myself in the company of my nearly 1 year old granddaughter on a beautiful spring like morning. We have had some great winter storms lately and our outlook for full lakes and rivers is very apparent. What that means is that it is time to start thinking about getting our t-birds checked out and fluids changed so we can have a safe start to outings and car shows.

Our last meeting was a great success, thanks to Judy Lyon for hosting her annual valentines meeting. The restaurant was nicely decorated with candies and decorations and Judy also provided us with valentine day cookies.

Of course, everyone knows about QC coming up in May and I will talk more about that in a separate article. I do however want to mention that we did have our first tour of 2024 which was the annual Almond Blossom Tour hosted by Jim and Donna Montavon. I have not directly received any feedback, but I can only imagine that it was a huge success and beautiful as could be. Our next meeting will be hosted by Jan Peterson, and it will be at the Grizzly Rock Café in Turlock.

Also, two new members joining the club as of our last meeting. One is a friend of Jan's and the other is a friend of Jim and Donna Montavon. We welcome them both. I cannot help but think that this may be the beginning of a trend. I say that because Holley Coppetti has upgraded our FB page and is building us an Instagram profile. Both are being designed to get our brand out to a larger audience.

I have one simple mention about QC '24 and that is that the regional director for our area will be attending our QC. I see this as a great opportunity to discuss concerns and offer suggestions to CTCI.

That'll be it for now. As always, I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the next meeting and social.

**Jim Ridenour**

President MACTC



Patches Available  
\$6.00 each  
See Elaine





# THE MOST SPECIAL DAYS DECEMBER



- 02 Roberta Van Dyke
- 09 Earl Reedy
- 11 Katrina Tellez
- 15 Don Cose
- 23 Pat Jeffries



*To Love and Laughter  
and Happily Ever After*

No March Anniversaries



## PLAN AHEAD

April 14, 2024

Meeting & Social - TBA

TBA - TBA

Host: Jim & Donna

*Thank  
you!*

Apologies for the out of focus pictures. Andrew was using the camera and changed some settings. I didn't realize until Donna was taking pictures and asked why the view was blurry.

Donations  
Wine - Jan

Ruben, Elaine, Jim & Donna  
for taking pictures



### Get Ready For QC

*Forty Six*

Destination Modesto

Date May 17-19 2024

Hosted By

Modesto Area Classic

Thunderbird Club

## The Modesto Bee



[facebook.com/calitourguide](https://facebook.com/calitourguide)



**Let's Have Fun!**

**Find Info & Updates!**



# ***VICE PRESIDENT***



## **Hello TBird Enthusiasts!**

The registration forms are out for QC 46. If you haven't already done so, fill yours out and return ASAP.

The various committees involved have plans to ensure this to be a fun and memorable event. This year's QC theme is American Graffiti which is so appropriate with it being held in Modesto.

We are excited about staying at the beautiful new Residence Inn and look forward to seeing all of the T-Birds lined up for our show and shine.

There will be signup sheets for volunteers of the various committees, please see where you can help out as this will be an "All Hands On Deck" operation. We want to encourage everyone to find their niche and get involved.

**Julie**



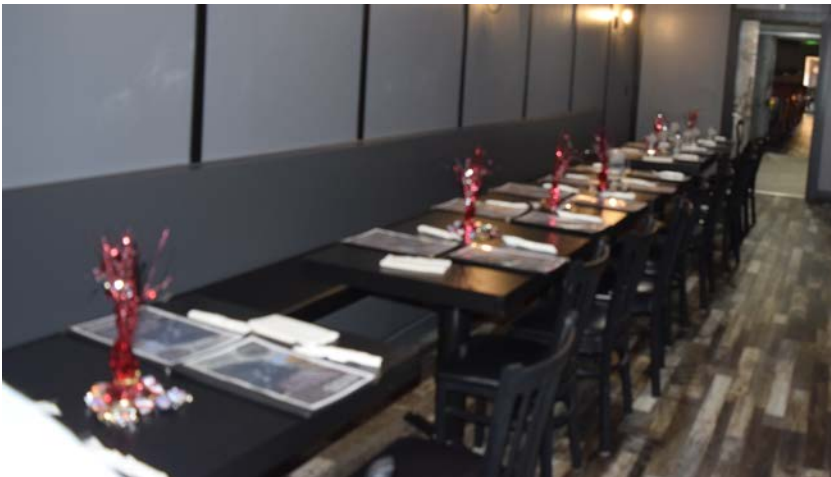
# Central Station Bar & Grill







# FEBRUARY MEETING AND SOCIAL



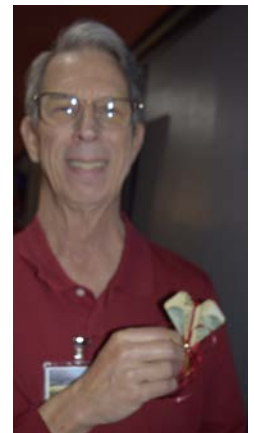
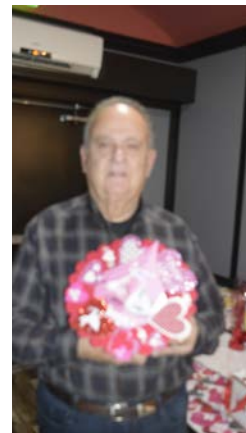
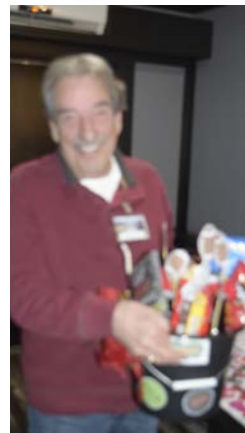
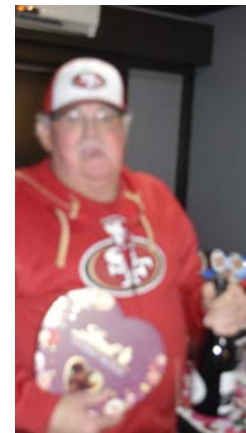




# FEBRUARY MEETING AND SOCIAL









# Meeting Minutes

Modesto Area Classic Thunderbird Club, Inc.  
Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 paused Opened at 12:59 pm by President Jim Ridenour. Jim thanked Judy for hosting the meeting and social at Central Station, in Turlock, California, and thanked Judy for the cookies and candy. There were 22 members and 5 guests in attendance. Margaret, Terry Helton's daughter, Earl Pillow and Alex Aguirre, Jan's friends and Mike and JoAnn Nolan, guests of Jim and Donna.

**Secretary - Katrina Tellez** - Inquired about any corrections or errors found in the January meeting minutes as reported in the February newsletter? None reported. A motion was made by Jim Montavon, seconded by Keith Rogers to approve the January minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried. The "New Member" form has been updated and can be found on the website. Any members needing a donation form to procure items for the QC raffle, contact Katrina.

**Treasurer - Elaine Rogers** reported the following for January: Expenses: Give-Away \$46.77, Web domain \$21.99, Sec. of State \$25.00, Web Page \$180.00. Total Expenses \$273.76. Income: Give-Away \$110.00, Dues \$95.00 - Total Income \$205.00.

**Sunshine - Frank Souza** reported sending out birthday and anniversary cards for the month of February.

**CTCI - Keith Rogers** - Gave his "Nothing to Report" statement.

**Meetings, Tours and Car Shows - Katrina filling in for Julie - Meetings** - Next meeting March 10, 2024 -11:30 - Grizzly Rock Cafe, Turlock - Host Jan, April 14 Meeting - TBA - Time TBA - Hosts Jim and Donna. **Car Shows** - See the website calendar for upcoming car shows. June 1st, Gallo company picnic and car show. To sign up see Julie. June 6-9 Graffiti Week. **Tours** - Montavon annual almond blossom tour - February 21 - Meet at Oakdale Cheese at 9:15 to depart at 9:30.

**Old Business** - Committee meeting update.

**New Business** -

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm Respectfully Submitted: *Katrina Tellez*

Giveaway Winners: Ruben - Jack - Keith - Bob - Frank - Earl P .








# Montavon's Annual Almond Blossom Tour



The Wednesday morning of February 21st was the perfect day for Modesto Area T-Birders and friends to meet at the Oakdale Cheese Factory to start off the Montavon's Annual Almond Blossom Tour. With crisp clean skies, and a small breeze, four little birds and two classic brand X's headed North towards the Oakdale reservoir.



Jim and Donna, their neighbor Tom in his '72 Chevy Truck, Bob E. in his Chevy Impala, Jack and Janis, Jan and Lisa and Ruben and Katrina. There were a couple of cancellations due to health issues and schedule conflicts, but there was still a nice little line up for a tour.





# MONTAVONS ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR



Jan & Lisa



Jack & Janis



Tom & Bob E.



Bob's Chevy Impala



Ruben & Katrina



Jim & Donna





# MONTAVONS ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR



The end of the tour was a stop at Henry Columbo Equipment. Pictured below with Jim and Donna is Henry Columbo. Henry is the Father of Jim and Donna's son-in-law. Set back in the almond orchard is Henry's shop and collection of equipment. Henry collects used farm equipment to restore and sell. He also has a beautiful assortment of orchard tractors. Since he was a young man and working in the orchards with his father, he has been interested in farm equipment. His father started in southern California and eventually Henry moved up and settled in the valley.







# MONTAVONS ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR



Two of Henry's employees, Francisco and Juan (son & Father). Juan does all of the painting for Columbo Equipment, and has done an outstanding job painting Henry's collection of tractors. Beautifully and completely restored, they belong on a show room floor.

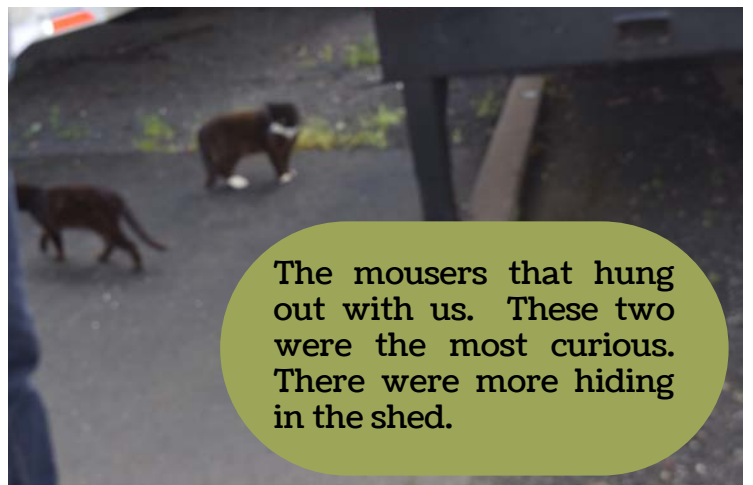




# MONTAVONS ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR



Originally the Colombo's orchards were planted with peaches and walnuts. When the peach orchards were removed, they were replaced by almonds. The fenders on the tractors are specific to farming the orchards. There were hundreds of thousands of these orchard tractors in use at one time. When the wineries came in and planted grapes and the orange groves started shrinking, there were so many of the tractors that were not being utilized and were sent off to be crushed, especially in Napa Valley. Henry and his family were instrumental in helping Jim and Donna acclimate during their relocation to the valley as they didn't know anyone when they first moved out from Ohio.



The mousers that hung out with us. These two were the most curious. There were more hiding in the shed.

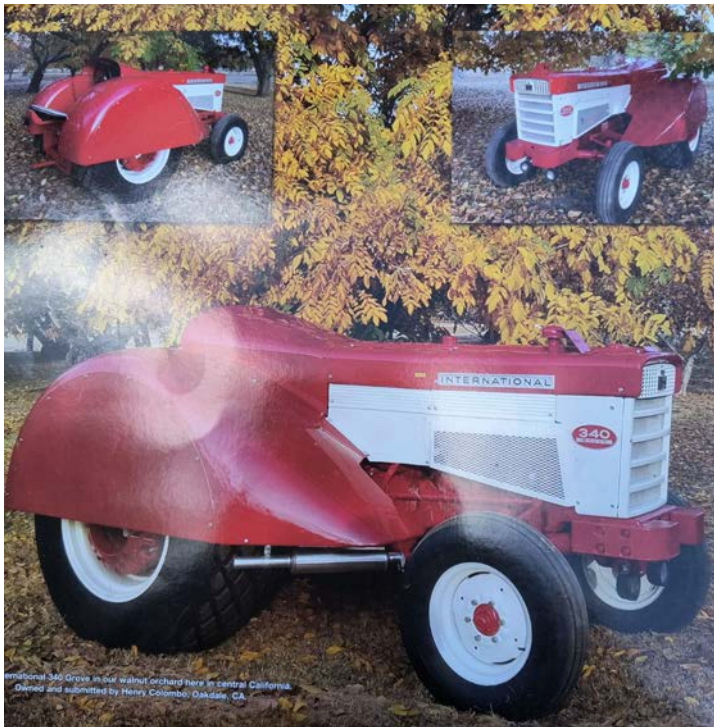




# MONTAVONS ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR



Bob E. and Tom the Neighbor



A number of Henry's restored tractors

This is one of Henry's restored tractors that was featured in a farm magazine. The fenders are specific to orchards.



Random heffer along the tour







“There’s something cool about being a stealth classic.”



Henry Columbo was a very gracious host and talented man. After he shared a little family history and his love of tractors, we took group pictures and headed into Oakdale to Backwoods Burgers for lunch. Our group feasted on an assortment of burgers and fries, then headed off to home or other destinations.

We caught the eye of one rancher that walked out to the road to gaze at the cars and visit for a bit. It was a gorgeous day out in the countryside. Trees fully blooming, the warmth of the air. Crisp clean skies after a rain with a few puffy clouds. The foothills and mountains clearly visible, it was a breath-taking drive.

Thank you Jim and Donna for a lovely day out with our very stealth and classic Thunderbirds!







# Video by Donna MP4 Version



## ***THE NEXT BIG THING***



**Meeting & Social**

**Sunday March 10 - 11:30**

**Grizzly Rock Cafe**

**4905 N. Golden State Blvd. - Turlock**

**Hosted by - Jan**

**Sign up or Cancel - By Friday March 8**

**Call/Text Katrina 209 - 480 - 3628**

**No Host Bar  
Gratuity  
Included**

**Order off  
the menu  
separate  
checks**



**Manteca - Modesto - Stockton - Tracy**

**Hwy 99 - Exit - Taylor Road - Left - Head North (left) on Golden State Blvd.**

**Oakdale/Modesto - Albers/Geer - Right on Keys - Left on Golden State Blvd.**



**Keith has a radiator leak and has decided that he needs to get the radiator bored out.**

**Jan's friend Alex, who lived across the street from her for many years, always enjoyed seeing her cars. He will be buying her "Old Yeller" and has become a Club Member!**

**Jim Ridenour could not get his '57 to start. The resistor band was not the problem. Then tracing the wiring harness, he found a melted wire. After fixing the wire the car still didn't start. Upon discovering it was human error, the problem was solved! It always helps to remember to put the car into neutral!**





## Sent to Jim Ridenour Passing on to the membership

### Gallo Family Picnic

Hello Jim!

Happy New Year! I spoke with you about a month ago at Regal theater that maybe your club might be interested in coming out for our annual Gallo Picnic Saturday Jun 1st. Our theme is American Graffiti.

I would like to place a few cars on the picnic grounds, and we are also hoping to have a car show in front of the Administration building as guests arrive, we usually have about 5,000 attending all employees and their immediate families.

The Picnic Hours are 10-3. I would like to have all the cars placed onsite from 7-9 am.

I have two guest entries and would like to have three cars parked at each entry that best represents the movie T-bird, Yellow Roadster, and '55 Chevy.

I will be doing a walk through on the grounds with the team in March to talk layout for other placements with other vehicles. I'm thinking about 15-20 vehicles on the picnic grounds and any others can be at the show area.

Also, we will be offering a free Lunch for those who are interested I will just need a count of those attendees, plus any of the rides and carnival games and activities are at your disposal, all free for our employees and our guests.

Let me know if you have that date available and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thanks,  
Rusty Inglet  
Creative Stylist



# 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Meetings

SUNDAY  
March 10 - 11:30  
Grizzly Rock Cafe - Turlock  
Host  
Jan Peterson

SUNDAY  
April - 12:00  
TBA - Modesto  
Host  
Jim and Donna



## Tours

No  
Tours



## Shows

May 17-19  
QC XLV  
Modesto  
Host - MACTC

April Car Shows  
See The Website

June 1st  
Gallo Employee Picnic

June  
Graffiti, Parade & Car Show