

Thunderbird Flyer



News from the Northwest Vintage Thunderbird Club

If you haven't been keeping up with my life, Diane and I moved last March. With the kids on their own we just didn't need the space that we had. So we built on the acreage in Washougal where I had bought a shop a few years ago. Don't believe the stories about how building a house leads to divorce. Maybe a few nights sleeping in the shop but really, I'm okay with that!

Those of you who have moved know you take all the stuff that you had carefully picked out, and meticulously coordinated to fit in the old house and try to make it fit in the new house. Most times you can make it work...and sometimes it fails miserably.

Since we moved in March we have had plenty of time to get most everything set up just the way we wanted. But then Christmas time rolled around.

Diane loves to decorate the house for the holidays. The kids would always pitch in since they liked the lights and ornaments for the holiday but with them gone it fell on me to ensure there wasn't a tree in the front window when guests arrived for Thanksgiving dinner. Then, as the last slices of pumpkin pie disappeared, the storage boxes came out and we moved into full decorating mode.

This is where the problems started. All the decorations are set up to work in the house that we sold!

I first noticed this when I went to hang the lighted snowflakes over the garage. Hooks and loops for the power cords and screws to hang the snowflakes had been placed many years ago on the old house. Not here! The two wreathes that fit perfect over the lights outside the old garage. Nope! And there are three lights on the new house. Try to find a wreath to match something bought five years ago! Indoors, garland and light strands too had to be altered and adjusted for the new place. But working through the frustration and anger with these difficulties has disappeared and the enjoyment of the season has set in.

I have been passing on holiday wishes to you on these pages for years now. I know that you may be experiencing things in life much more serious than a light strand that is few inches short, but my wish for you is that you may overcome the difficulties that come your way.

If you can I am sure you will find the shine and sparkle in this season. Happy Holidays!

Tom



With pandemic closures and restrictions in place the last couple of years, club business and activities were easily handled, even though several members stepped down from their roles with the club.

As we get back to operating in a more normal fashion the club needs members for assistance! Executive Board positions and activity directors are desperately needed. There will be discussion at the club holiday party in December and in further emails to members.

Please, seriously consider helping keep this club an active and fun group to belong to!

FORD'S OUT FRONT
On the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas—the children were dreaming
Of a Ford in their future—smart, swanky and gleaming;
And Mother and I gaily grinned, for we knew
That this wonderful dream was about to come true.
Then out in the driveway wheels crunched on the snow
And the Ford dealer gave us a cheery "Hello"
He wasn't the Santa Claus type—he appeared
Without any reindeer, a pack, or a beard,
But when he drove up in that elegant bus
You bet he was Santa, in person, to us.
"Merry Christmas," he said, with a smile that was pleasant,
"The Ford in your future is now in your present."
Well, Mother was eager, and I was agog
So we took the new Ford for a nice little jog:
A jog? It was more like a journey on wings,
What zest in that motor! What ease in those springs!
With Queen size in comfort, and King size in brakes
We laughed "Ford's out Front with whatever it takes"
So, proud as a Princess and rich as a Lord,
We glowed with our glory in having a Ford,
And thought, "When the kids start their Christmas-Day hunt
For presents, they'll find that a Ford is Out Front."
...Berton Braley

There's a
Ford
in your future

1947 Ford Motor Company advertisement

Gifts For The Car Person In Your Life

It's the time of year when family members start to ask what you would like for a Christmas present. Although it may be impractical to expect Santa to place a new four post lift under the tree, these gift ideas are something that the elves can wrap up easily!

Drift Car Air Fresheners, \$8

Replace those tacky tree-shaped air fresheners with a better-looking and better-smelling option. Drift clips onto your sun visor and uses essential fragrance oil blends to keep your car smelling fresh for more than a month. Get them on the [Drift website](#) for around \$8.



Respoke Collection Custom Car Print, \$49

Real car lovers look back at their ride whenever they park it and start to walk away. With a [Respoke Collection Custom Car Print](#), they can get a glimpse of their car even when they're not in the driveway, garage, or parking lot. Simply upload a picture of their personal car (or another favorite car) and have it turned into high-quality wall art.



Tire Coffee Mug, \$26

This ceramic coffee mug is designed with the professional and hobby mechanic in mind. With tires making up the cup and a wrench for the handle, it is sure to please any grease monkey. Find it here on [Amazon](#).



Automotive Cleaning Gel, \$7

Using a cloth or rag to wipe down your cars interior will only go so far. You know those joints and seams in you car that you just can't get clean.

This detailing gel can be pushed into cracks and crevices to grab and lift the dust and dirt to give your car that deep down clean.

You can use this gel many times over and it works in the house also! Find this at [Amazon](#).



Personalized Car Coaster Set, \$12

You may not be driving a Maybach but that's no reason not to feel special. A pair of personalized coasters that fit in your cars cup-holders protects your interior from spills and drips while adding a touch of class. Find them at [Personalization Mall](#).



Digital Tire Pressure Gauge, \$8

Tire pressure is an important thing. Even if your tire doesn't appear low, just a few PSI away from the ideal tire pressure can lead to heavy steering, poor fuel efficiency, and sloppy handling. For precise pressure readings, having a Digital Tire Pressure Gauge handy is key. Whether you're optimizing for track use or just keeping your daily ride in shape, this gauge



from AstroAI is sleek, lightweight, and will read exact pressures for years to come. It also comes with a flashlight to help find the tire valve stem on low-light occasions. Find this on [Amazon](#).

Words by Tom Przedwojewski

How To Gift A Vehicle

There are several reasons you might decide to give a vehicle as a gift. Perhaps you are giving it to a family member, such as a child who just received a driver's license. Maybe you are donating it in order to purchase a new vehicle and you do not wish to sell your old one. Either way, the basic step involved in gifting a vehicle is to transfer the title of ownership, but several details might make this task more complex. You need to ensure that you own the vehicle in full. This means there can be no active liens on the vehicle. If you co-own the vehicle with another person, that person must be able to provide a signature as well (except in rare cases, such as death, at which point you might require the assistance of your local Probate Court as well as the executor of the estate of the deceased). Once the title is signed over to the new owner, it must be presented at the Department of Motor Vehicles to complete the title transfer.

Part 1 - Preparing for the Gift Transfer

Step 1

Verify ownership. This sounds obvious, but the first step before you can give away a vehicle is to make sure that you are the legal owner. To do that, you must have the title. The title is a certificate that you should have received from the dealer, probably after you paid off all the loans. The title will name the rightful owner or owners of the vehicle.

If you have lost your title certificate, you will need to get a replacement from your state's Department of Motor Vehicles. Each state has a different procedure and fee for this. At <http://www.dmv.org/replacing-a-lost-title.php> you can find a handy map of the U.S. with contact information for the DMV in each state.

Step 2

Satisfy all liens. A lienholder is someone you borrowed money from, with the car as collateral. If you still owe them money, their name will appear on the title. Before you can give away the car, you must pay off all loans, and the lienholders must sign off on the title certificate that they have been paid.

Step 3

Involve Probate Court, if an inheritance. If the owner's name on the title is someone who is deceased, and the gift is an inheritance, you may need to go to Probate Court to get an order for the transfer. Alternatively, in some states, it is possible to file a simple affidavit with the Registry of Motor Vehicles in order to take possession. You will need to check with your state law.

If the car was owned jointly by a married couple, for example, and one dies and the remaining owner wants to give the car away as a gift, the surviving individual can, in most cases, transfer the car alone. A copy of the death certificate may be needed to accompany the title.

Part 2 - Completing the Paperwork

Step 1

Complete the transfer section on the back of the title. The person giving the vehicle will be required to provide his or her signature, driver's license information and odometer information for the vehicle at the time of the gift. The person receiving the car must fill out the buyer portion of the title. Where the title asks for the sale price,

you will fill in "Gift."

Be careful when completing these steps. Many title certificates specify that the writing must be done cleanly and clearly, with no erasures or cross-outs. Even a simple printing error could require you to obtain a new copy of the title certificate and start over.

Step 2

Get lienholders to sign off. If the lienholders have not yet already given you something to show that the loans are satisfied, you will need to have them sign off on the title as satisfied in full. If your loan was from a dealer, you will want to contact the lending department. If you obtained your loan from a bank or some other lending institution, then find your original loan paperwork. That will tell you who to contact for payoff information.

Step 3

Check with the state Registry of Motor Vehicles for additional gift requirements. In general, gifts between family members are freely allowed, and there would be no sales tax at the time of the transfer. However, each state's laws are different and you should check with your own state. Some states may require proof of a family relationship for the gift to be tax-free.

Step 4

Verify insurance for recipient. The person receiving the car will ordinarily have to demonstrate that he or she is covered by insurance before taking ownership. This is not exactly a concern for the person giving the gift, but the new owner, in order to drive the car, will have to get it insured and registered. The new owner's insurance company will usually issue the owner a card or letter to show proof of insurance.

Step 5

Check inspection requirements. Some states will require the car to be inspected separately at the time of the transfer. Other states will not. You can check with your state's Department of Motor Vehicles to find out your requirements. In many states, this will require you to take the car to a licensed inspection station and undergo a safety inspection, emissions test, or other similar procedure.

Part 3 - Completing the Transfer

Step 1

Deliver the documents to RMV. In most states, the person receiving the gift will have to take the completed documents to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. You will turn in the original title, with all the completed signatures, along with whatever fee may be required.

Step 2

Register the car according to the state's usual procedures. This will be up to the new owner of the car. Registration is the procedure in all states that certifies that the car may be licensed and driven in the state. In many

...the first step before you can give away a vehicle is to make sure that you are the legal owner.

T-Bird Talk

Meeting Minutes and Club Information

The club holiday party will be held at McMenamins Bagdad Theatre & Pub in Portland on December 11th. If you did not respond to the invitation sent in November there may still be room. Call Tom to confirm.

Ford Motor Company Produces Christmas Film

During the first decade of the Ford Motor Company's existence, the company employed various photographers and photographic firms to provide images to provide illustrations for publications, and to provide publicity for Henry Ford and his company. Henry became interested in making movies in 1913 after seeing a film made by an outside production company about his Highland Park automobile factory.

At first the department's photographers focused on the visual documentation of company products, plants, and employees. By the mid 1920's the emphasis gradually shifted toward public relations and promotional functions.



In December of 1920, Ford Motor Company sent prints of the film *Christmas Thoughts* to Ford dealers around the country. The film encouraged viewers to establish a local Goodfellows' Club, with their local dealer serving as the headquarters. The clubs helped poor families at Christmastime.

Christmas Thoughts is an eight minute movie of a group of Goodfellows spreading some Christmas cheer to a family that has been experiencing hard times. There are still Goodfellows groups around the country that continue in this tradition,

Top and Right: Screen grabs from Christmas Thoughts show a Kris Kringle that is a little different from what we think of today.



though not meeting at Ford dealerships.

Thunderbird Trivia

answer on page 8



Here is an easy trivia question so you can get back to your eggnog.
What special order Thunderbird sold out its entire production run in only two hours?

'Twas The Night Before Christmas 2022

*It was the night before Christmas
The Thunderbird was runnin' good.
Most everything was top notch,
Operating just as it should.*

*Cruising down the roadway
heavy grey clouds began to drop
snowflakes past my frosty windows.
It wasn't lookin' like it would stop.*

*The wipers were working hard
whipping ice-crystals from the glass.
But the twin beam headlights cut through the storm
I didn't have to let up on the gas.*

*But in the rear-view mirror
I saw the glow of a single red light.
I couldn't believe a cop was pulling me over
on this wintry, cold, dark night!*

*I pulled off the road by a mailbox
(painted in green was the name "Holiday").
A shadow formed on the driver side window.
I rolled it on down to hear what this cop had to say.*

*But this wasn't a trooper
Decked out in tactical gear.
No, this guy was dressed in red
Crumbs of cookie in his white beard!*

*He said "You were making better time than me
on the road down below"
"My schedule is falling behind,
What with all of this snow."*

*He proceeded to tell me
about his preparation and plans.
He asked for my help
and hoped I would understand.*

*Of course, I would help!
My Thunderbird and me.
How could I turn down
This eve of Christmas humble plea.*

*Santa pulled from the sleigh
A huge gift bag stained with soot and looking well worn
His team of reindeer felt the abandonment,
Rudolph's face was forlorn.*

*He placed the large bag
In the trunk with some care.
I was worried it wouldn't fit
But there was plenty of room with some left to spare.*

*We chatted about Christmas
past, present and future.
His directions were unerring.
A most unique passenger feature!*

*By the hundreds and thousands
From his bag flowed the presents.
And I spied the gas tank stayed full
Was it Santa or just coincidence?*

*Soon enough the bag was emptied
The east horizon started to lighten.
My Thunderbird coasted silently behind Santa's sleigh
We spooked the reindeer, they jerked being frightened.*

*Santa and I said our goodbyes
But he moved close to my ear, he had a secret to say.
"I'd trade these nine reindeer
For those 300 ponies in your T-bird any day!"*

*He then turned on his heel
and bounded to his sleigh.
With a crack of the whip the reindeer jumped skyward.
Headed off on a northerly way.*

*"Don't get rid of that ride"
He yelled as he left, that old Christmas elf.
"I love that Thunderbird,
I've always been a Ford man myself!"*



Taking Wing

Things to do and places
to go with your T-bird

Club Activities

December 11th (Sun) NWVTC Holiday Party. 12:30pm-3pm. McMenamins Bagdad Theatre & Pub

VTCl Regionals and International

No events currently scheduled for 2023

Local Activities

Every Saturday in November Portland Cars & Coffee, 8am-11am, Langer's Fun Center
Sherwood, OR. Further information at portlandcarsandcoffee.com



It looks like the couple in the Ford sedan are more interested in arriving at their destination on time rather than picking up a hitchhiking Santa Claus from this 1939 Ford advertisement.

They may provide Father Christmas a ride if they spy all those accessories that he has for their car wrapped up!



Photo courtesy of the Collections of The Henry Ford



Northwest Vintage Thunderbird Club Officers

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Find us on the web at
www.nwtbirds.org

Club Gear

We have contracted with **Stitch 'n Embroidery in Oregon City** for club members to have most anything they could use to have the club logo embroidered on it; shirts, sweats, hoodies and jackets or backpacks. Check out their [site](#) and then call to see if it can be produced!



Northwest Vintage Thunderbird Club has been a proud chapter of Vintage Thunderbird Club International for over 30 years. VTCI supports every model year of the Ford Thunderbird through national events, The Scoop club member magazine and on-line forums.



The club encourages its members to join [VTCI's support](#) in "Thunderbirding" around the world!

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states, you can call the Registry ahead of time to make an appointment.

Step 3

Wait for the new title to arrive. As the recipient of a gift vehicle, you will need to receive a new title. The Registry will deliver this in your own name, usually within a couple weeks. When it arrives, check the new Certificate of Title to make sure that the information is all printed accurately. This document is your proof of ownership of the vehicle. If there are any errors, even if they appear minor (such as an incorrect middle initial, for example), these could cause trouble for you in the future. If you see any mistakes, notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles immediately. You will probably have to submit an application for a correction.

Words by Clinton Sandvick from the WikiHow website. Read the unedited version [here](#).

Thunderbird Trivia Answer

At 10am September 25, 2000, Neiman Marcus began taking calls from customers on a special 800 number. Two hours later, every one of the 200 Neiman Marcus-edition Thunderbirds available was sold. It was the fastest time elapsed for any of the cars offered through the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalog.

The uniquely badged Thunderbirds were priced at \$41,995.

Passing Lane

Fun stuff from along the road



Merry Christmas