



Concours panorama photo courtesy of Bill and Janet Simpson Photography, West Memphis, Arkansas

## 2012 Memphis CTCL International Convention Edition

### President's Message

It's hard to believe that the time has come to bid farewell to summer and welcome the cooler temperatures of autumn. What a great time to enjoy your T-Bird's lack of air conditioning by joining your fellow classic auto enthusiasts for a weekend in Vevay! Our friends, the Early Birds of Hoosierland, have invited us to join them there for all or part of the weekend of September 14 to 16. Details can be found in the August newsletter and on the OVEB website. Forty-nine members from both clubs have already saved a spot, so I hope you are among them.

We wish to heartily thank our fellow T-Birders in the Memphis Classic Thunderbird Club for organizing and hosting a most wonderful and memorable international convention in August. Thirteen OVEB members made the trek to Memphis and enjoyed the southern hospitality and the sights, great food and wonderful music that "The Home of the Blues" and "The Birthplace of Rock and Roll" has to offer.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Glenn Forsell who once again engraved all of the plaques awarded at the banquet. A big thank you also goes to Bill and Gail Curtis who organized our caravan, test-drove the scenic route and made arrangements for our accommodations along the way. Gail also purchased items and designed two lovely gift baskets that OVEB too to the convention. We also thank Jan Rieder for pre-registering our attendees for the awards banquet and other events as well as organizing fun outings to Pat and Gina Neely's barbecue restaurant and to the historic Peabody Hotel to watch their beloved ducks march from the rooftop to the lobby. We also appreciate Walt and Pat Bernhardt for hauling the award plaques and other items to the convention to assist Glenn and the Memphis club. More convention news and a record number of photo pages can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although 2012 is all too quickly drawing to a close, we still have some interesting upcoming activities. Don't forget our outing to the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton on October 20th with dinner to follow at Giovanni's Restaurant. We also hope to get members out for the fun annual Spring Grove Cemetery Cruise-In and Car Show to be held at Cincinnati's historic cemetery on October 14th. A trip to Cincinnati's newly renovated American Sign Museum is on the schedule for November 17th and we will end the year with our traditional Christmas party, kindly hosted by Gail and Bill Curtis on December 2. Mark your calendars now. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Brad



### September Birthdays

- 8 Rick Varino
- 11 Brad Nogar
- 15 Bill Strader
- 21 Amy Faulkner
- 24 Frank Plazzotta
- 29 Greg Bratfish

### October Birthdays

- 2 Harley Carter
- 12 Robbin Bratfish
- 14 Arlene Hutten
- 16 Linda Carter
- 25 Marvin Hill
- 26 Carol Quitter

### Photo Credits

Unless otherwise noted, the photographs of the Memphis CTCL Convention published in this newsletter were supplied by Brad and Lisa Nogar, Bill and Gail Curtis, Gary and Jan Rieder and Walt and Pat Bernhardt.

## Memphis CTCI Convention Wrap-Up

What fun we had in Memphis! Thirteen OVEB members (with six classic T-Birds) attended the 2012 CTCI International Convention from August 21st to 25th at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Approximately 837 other CTCI members representing six countries, including Canada, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and Australia, joined us. Over 130,000 miles were actually driven to Memphis by 140 T-Birds from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico while haulers transported the others. What a thrill to see more than 220 colorful Birds inside the climate-controlled convention center on display for the Concours D'Elegance on Friday.

Eight OVEB members driving four T-Birds left Ohio on a lovely Monday morning (August 20th) to begin their two-day journey south along a beautiful, scenic route through the Land Between the Lakes planned by Gail and Bill Curtis. The trip went smoothly except for a mechanical difficulty experienced by one T-Bird about 100 miles outside of Memphis. The caravan felt bad about leaving him along side the road to await an AAA tow truck, but repairs were made, and he was able to join us in Memphis only a few hours later. The rest of OVEBers made the trip in a single day on Tuesday.

Our wonderful hosts, the Memphis Classic Thunderbird Club, put forth a huge effort and planned lots of interesting and exciting activities for us during our stay. In addition to a great welcome party featuring traditional Memphis barbeque and lively music, members took advantage of the opportunity to visit local points of interest, including Sun Records, the Rock and Soul Museum, the Cotton Museum, the National Civil Rights Museum and the famed Peabody Hotel ducks. The entertaining mallards make a daily walk from their rooftop home into the elevator and then march through the hotel lobby to the lovely indoor fountain where they spend the afternoon. Many conventioners also enjoyed riding the city's historic trolley for a great view of the sights as well as fascinating commentary and historical facts from the operators.

Another highlight included an evening riverboat music and dinner cruise on the mighty Mississippi River, which turned out to be not so mighty because of very low water levels from the extended drought. For many, the favorite activity was the evening at Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley, where we enjoyed an excellent dinner and private tour of the house, Elvis' airplanes and his classic car collection.

The Concours took place on Friday with the judging of 90 Concours class and 65 touring class T-Birds. The balance of the cars were in the display only category. Glenn Forsell was a critical part of this process, again responsible for engraving all of the plaques awarded at the Saturday night banquet. Three other OVEB members served as judges: John Fleeger, Bill Curtis and Brad Nogar, while Gail Curtis was a runner assisting with tabulating the results.

Saturday morning brought a busy Swap Meet and a light rain, but that did not dampen the spirits of the T-Birders who lined up for the drive to Graceland. A police escort closed the interstate while 90 classic cars made the ten-mile trip to the visitor's center where the cars were displayed. Brad Nogar was one of lucky 20 participants whose names were drawn to park in front of Elvis' front porch for a unique photo opportunity. The police then accompanied the Thunderbirds back downtown where the cars lined up on lively Beale Street for more public viewing.

## OVEB Members Receive Awards in Memphis



The following OVEB members collected plaques at the Saturday night CTCI awards banquet:

- Walt Bernhardt, Silver Award, Concours I: 1956 Primary Original
- Glenn Forsell, Gold Award, Concours II: 1956 Primary Non-Original
- Gail and Bill Curtis, Gold Award, Concours II: 1957 Primary Non-Original
- Brad Nogar, Second Place, 1957 Touring Class, subclass A (hoods down).

## Gil Baumgartner Honored At CTCI Convention



*Image courtesy tbirdsbygill.com*

The prestigious Lee Iacocca Award, dedicated to excellence in perpetuating an American automotive tradition, was presented to CTCI member Gil Baumgartner for his extensive research, writing and support for the restoration of the classic Thunderbird.

This is not a CTCI award, but a national honor, considered by many to be the most coveted award on the classic car circuit. Anyone who has read *Gil's Garage*, the technical column he writes for *Early Bird* magazine or who has consulted the *Thunderbird Restoration Details and Specifications Manual* that Gil authored and continues to update, appreciates what a tremendous resource he represents to our hobby.



## Caravan to Memphis - Day One



*After a nice jaunt on US-42, we hit the Interstate in Louisville*



*Lunch stop at O'Charley's near Louisville*



*Everyone seems pretty happy that we completed the first leg of our journey without incident*



*Just wait till you see my Elvis shades*



*We spent the night in Center City, KY, birthplace of Don Everly*



*Half price cerveza with dinner at Mexican restaurant near our motel*



## Caravan to Memphis - Day Two



*Uh, Brad...Perhaps you should close the hood before driving off*



*A T-Bird between the lakes*



*The Land Between the Lakes Golden Pond Visitor Center*



*Inside the visitor center*



*Four baby birds and "chase" car at visitor center*



*Gail and Lisa channel Tony Orlando for EBOH scavenger hunt*



## Caravan to Memphis - Day Two



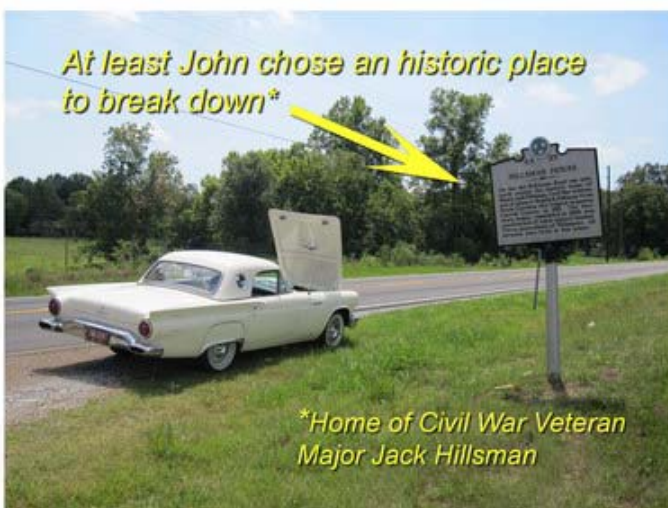
After the rest stop, Bill and John are ready to get back on the road



The first of many unscheduled stops for John's E-Bird



Let's just enjoy our Big Macs while John's car cools down



For John, the caravan ended 114 miles from Memphis



I'll just move my luggage to the chase vehicle and then wait for AAA



Don't worry, John. We'll make sure your luggage gets to Memphis okay



## Our First Night in Memphis



Dinner was at Neely's Bar-B-Que, just a few blocks from our hotel



We didn't know that every other meal in Memphis would also be BBQ



After dinner, we grabbed a trolley and headed to Beale Street



Beale Street wasn't too crowded on a Tuesday night



A small sampling of Beale Street neon



Open container? No problem



## Sun Records Tour



*Ohio Valley Early Bird members gather for breakfast in hotel*



*Walt tells Lisa he never uses a Tide pen when HE drinks coffee*



*The historic Sun Studios, birthplace of Rock-n-Roll*



*Sam Phillips seems to be gazing at Lisa and Pat in the museum*



*The studio where Elvis, Johnny Cash and others made history*



*Our tour guide, "El Dorado", made Rock-n-Roll history come alive*



## Memphis Museums & Attractions



*The Rock 'n' Soul Museum honors the evolution of the Blues*



*Walt and other T-Bird visitors felt very welcome at the museum*



*National Civil Rights Museum covers the struggle for racial equality*



*The Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was slain*



*St. Jude Children's Hospital statue of founder Danny Thomas*



*The Cotton Museum at the Memphis Cotton Exchange*



## More Memphis Attractions



*The Peabody ducks march to the hotel lobby fountain daily at 11 a.m.*



*The ducks return to their rooftop penthouse each evening at 5 p.m.*



*Vintage trolleys passed the convention hotel every few minutes*



*Straphanger Linda enjoys an informative trolley tour of Memphis*



*Deb and Gail enjoy a leisurely ride downtown*



*This future home of Bass Pro Shops evokes ancient Egypt*



## Everyone Wanted to Pose with "The King"



*Bill and Gail Curtis*



*Linda and John Fleeger*



*Bill and Pam Strader*



*Gary and Jan Rieder*



*Lisa and Brad Nogar*



*Elvis gets frisky with Pat Bernhardt as Walt looks on*



## Welcome Reception & After Party



*The SRO CTCI welcome reception featured Memphis barbeque*



*Gee Walt, you smell really nice*



*Banished from the adult table, Gary's doorman duties kept him busy*



*John moved the party down the street to Westy's Restaurant*



*Much drinking and hilarity ensued*



*Just two dudes who enjoy driving red 1957 Thunderbirds*



## Dinner at Graceland



*"I'm goin' to Graceland, Graceland, Memphis Tennessee.."*



*Elvis says, "Thank y'all for coming. Thank ya very much."*



*All hail the "King"*



*Unlike the unlucky folks on other buses, we were seated immediately*



*A very tasty meal was catered by Elvis' favorite Italian restaurant*



*We even had a model of Glenn Forsell's car as a centerpiece*



## Moonlight Tour of Graceland



*The front entrance of Elvis Presley's Graceland*



*The living room at Graceland*



*The "Jungle Room" celebrates Elvis' unique taste in home furnishings*



*Lisa and Linda were just two of the many fans enjoying the tour*



*Elvis' jumpsuits & gold records fill the racquetball court*



*Elvis' final resting place*



## Preparing for the Concours



*The "pay someone else to wash your car" concession was popular*



*After three tries, John finally found a small steering wheel that fit*



*Gail is busy supervising while Bill details the interior*



*Borrow Walt's jack. Change the tire. Clean the whitewalls. Check.*



*I think I'm ready to hit the casinos*



*Looks perfect. Guess I'll go engrave some plaques.*



## Showcars in Cook Convention Center



*Over two hundred classic T-Birds filled Memphis' climate-controlled Cook Convention Center*



*Walt Berhardt's Concours I Primary Original '56*



*Glenn Forsell's Concours II Primary Non-Original '56*



*Bill and Gail Curtis' Concours II Primary Non-Original '57*



*Many attendees could relate to this sentiment*



## OVEB Members Assist with Concours Judging



Concours and touring judges spent half a day in training sessions



Anyone seen my fellow touring judges? Oh, there you are.



Bill Curtis and John Fleegeer both volunteered as "special items" judges



"That parking light is definitely on...off...on...Oh, it's a turn signal?"



Debbie checked the score sheets and Gail served as a runner



## Mississippi Riverboat Cruise



*What's for dinner? Barbeque? Now that's a surprise*



*The band entertained us with a special rendition of "T-Bird Sally"*



*After dinner, the ladies enjoyed some wine...*



*...while the men enjoyed some suds*



*Downtown Memphis from the water*



*The Hernando de Soto Bridge connects Memphis, TN with Arkansas*



## Awards Banquet & Member Awards



*Jan's advance efforts secured us a table at the banquet*



*We feasted on steak and chicken instead of the ubiquitous barbeque*



*That's EBOH's Bev Lucas receiving a Gold newsletter award*



*Gil Baumgartner was honored with the prestigious Lee Iacocca Award*



*Glenn Forsell received a Gold Award in the 56 Primary Non-Original Concours II category*





## More OVEB Member Awards



*Bill and Gail Curtis received a Gold Award in the 57 Primary Non-Original Concours II category*



*Duane Johnson presented Walt Bernhardt with a Silver Award in the 56 Primary Original Concours I category*



*George Lang presented Brad Nogar with a Second Place Award in the 57 Touring Sub-Class A category*



## Caravan to Graceland



*T-Birders muster Saturday morning for caravan to Graceland*



*Police motorcycle officers explain the rules of the road*



*After a week of perfect weather, rain arrived for the caravan*



*T-Birds lined up under the Memphis Mud Island Monorail*



*Our police escorts closed the interstate to all but T-Birds*



*Those vacuum wipers really do the job - especially while accelerating*



## Caravan to Graceland



*The caravan ended at the Graceland visitor center parking lot*



*Elvis must have arranged for the rain to stop soon after we arrived*



*Is this what you call an extra retro, retro bird?*



*Duane and Debby enjoy their Chick-fil-A lunches*



*"Hello NAPA. Do you have a 7280 battery in stock?"*



*Brad won a drawing to drive his T-Bird onto the Graceland property*



## Birds on Beale Street



*T-Birds lined both sides of Beale Street and throngs of locals stopped by to admire them*



*Brad nabbed a parking spot near BB King's Blues Club*



*Glenn Forsell was parked right across the street*



*Bill Strader found a spot by Silky O'Sullivan's bar*



*After a fruitless NAPA quest, John ended up on nearby Handy Circle*



## Birds on Beale Street



*Lisa, Gail and Linda took in the sights of the cars and the crowds*



*Linda chatted with Memphis host club member David Babij*



*Gary and Bill enjoyed some Beale "Big Ass" Beers*



*Hey guys. Why don't you hold your "Big Ass" beers next to your...*



*Please, please. No more photos*



*Gail provides Bill and Gary with a big send off*



## OVEB 2012 Event Schedule

### October 20 – U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH

After a leisurely visit to this renowned aviation museum, we'll enjoy dinner at Giovanni's Restaurant in Fairborn. An optional excursion to the upscale Greene shopping complex will be offered for those whose interests lie outside the field of aviation history. Organizers: Pam and Bill Strader.

### November 17 – American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, OH

This unique attraction celebrates everything neon. The ASM recently relocated to a much larger facility, where many more examples of restored roadside Americana are on display. Dinner will be at Cincinnati's new Moerlein Lager House. Organizers: Brad and Lisa Nogar.

### December 2 – OVEB Christmas Party at the home of Bill and Gail Curtis

Time and details to follow.

## Optional Cruise-in Activities

### October 14, 3 - 7pm – Spring Grove Cemetery Cruise-In & Car Show

Historic Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum, 4389 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. Registration opens at 2:00pm with live music provided by Ooh La La and the Greasers. This is no entry fee, but please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. There will also be hourly door prizes, tram tours, a guided 'Cemetery Cruise' at 6:00pm and a vintage hearse exhibit.

*Note: All events are subject to change. Please visit [oveb.org](http://oveb.org) for updated information and additional details.*

## Check Your Fuel Filter

The gasket that was included with recent orders of CASCO replacement fuel filters (part #9365) is not fully compatible with alcohol-blended fuels.

CASCO is sending out replacement gaskets to their affected customers, but since other T-Bird parts vendors sell the same item, some customers may not be aware of the problem. A bad gasket will swell up and will not fit in the filter assembly until it has "dried out." But it will swell up again. Don't use a gasket that does this. The CASCO part number for the ethanol fuel-proof gasket itself is 9364.



Bill Strader had his entire fuel filter disintegrate. CASCO sent him a replacement at no charge and advised him to check the new filter after a few days. They claim that if it also turns out to be defective, it will fail within a matter of days.



### Ohio Valley Early Birds

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