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Thunderbird

VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF INDIANA

BIRD DROPPINGS

In Memory Robert P. "Bob" Thomas



1951 - 2026



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“Presidents Message”

By Dan Clark May, 2026

In Tribute

This is a tough one to write. As you all know by now, our beloved sponsor, member, and most importantly, friend Bob Thomas has passed. Our condolences go out to his family and friends, and to his employees. Bob was more than just a sponsor or member of our club; he supported us and inspired us with respect to our own cars and to the club in general. He showed a tremendous devotion to his family and his employees, and was a true success story in the way he built his dealerships with hard work, ingenuity and integrity. It is hard to believe that he hosted us just a little over a month ago, sharing jokes and stories as he showed us around the memorable cars in his showroom, the cars in the workshop that were in various stages of completion, and of course the fabulous cars in his collection. He shared his knowledge with us, and let us in on his plans for the various Concours that he planned to take them to in the coming year, and the results that he expected from them. He had eclectic tastes; foreign cars and American cars made by all of the major manufacturers, true antiques, classic muscle cars, modern cars, luxury cars, sports cars, and all vehicles in between. One of the best things about them is that Bob loved to drive his cars – most of the meetings that he attended, Bob would show up with a car from the collection. They were all personal to him, each one carried a story that he loved to tell. He always remembered the details of each of them, and unlike most of us, the stories never varied from telling to retelling! Bob was especially proud of the cars that he had prepared for his wife and daughters, each one had a special place in his heart. His wife played a prominent role in many of those stories, and he liked to joke about how many times she told him “No more cars!”, but the cars just kept appearing. He shared a funny but poignant story about helping his grandson buy a car online more than ten years before he would ever get a driver’s license. No doubt he was still searching the auctions and advertisements for the next addition to the stable; it seems as if the search was as much fun for him as the acquisition. Bob will be greatly missed by all of us.

Our April event, a trip to the IMS Museum, was an unqualified success. We saw the Pace Car exhibit and several other new exhibits as well as visiting some old favorites. Members attending included Elaine Anderson, Mike Sercer, John Taylor, Jeff Alden, Jim Maple and Mary Tucker, Cary and Cathy Howie, and Julie and I. Thanks to the generous Mike Sercer (and his IMS Museum membership), Mary Tucker received a free entrance to the museum. The lunch at Dawson’s that followed was top-notch as well, and I would encourage you all to join us at the ice cream shop the next time!

Moving forward, our next event is the Mecum Auction to be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. We will be attending on May 8, meeting at the main entrance at 10:00 am. *Slightly* discounted tickets are available on the Mecum website. Look in the award-winning newsletter for more details! Hope to see you all there!

Thanks for reading,

Dan





IMS Museum Visit & Lunch



Photo Gallery

Dana Mecum's 39th Annual Original Spring Classic auction is scheduled for May 8–16, 2026, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, featuring over 3,000 vehicles, including muscle cars, exotics, and motorcycles. Key highlights include a 1995 Ferrari F50, a 2005 Maserati MC12, and a 1972 Lamborghini Miura P400 SV.

We will meet at the auction entrance at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 8th. Lunch will be on your own. There are a number of food vendors throughout the complex.

- DETAILS FROM THE MECUM WEBSITE:
- **Dates:** May 8-16, 2026
- **Location:** Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN
- **Schedule:** Doors open daily at 8 AM

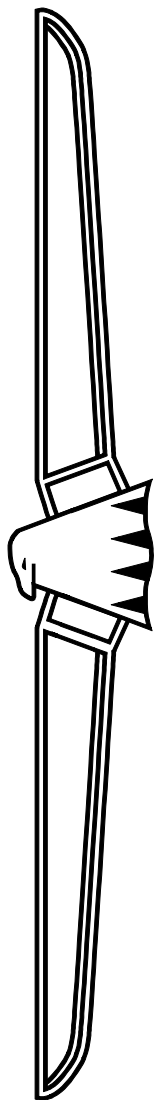
Featured Vehicles & Lots:

- **1995 Ferrari F50:** 4.7L/513 HP V-12, 6-Speed
- **2014 Ferrari LaFerrari (Lot R702):** 56-mile example (Saturday, May 16)
- **1972 Lamborghini Miura P400 SV:** Only example in Bleu Tahiti with Gold Accents
- **2005 Maserati MC12:** 1 of 50 produced
- **1991 Ferrari F40:** 1 of 213 U.S.-market cars
- **1970 Buick GS Convertible:** Restomod featuring LS Power (May 16)
- **1989 Pulse Autocycle (Lot K46):** Listed among over 100 motorcycles

Tickets: Available at the gate or [Afton Tickets](#) for a 25% discount, costing \$25 for a 1-day pass or \$75 for 3 days. \$30 at the gate for a 1 day pass.

Bidding: Registration is open for in-person, phone, or [online bidding](#).

- **Road Art:** Items will be offered daily before the vehicles, according to Mecum Auctions.





Club Calendar 2026

UNDERLINED DATES ARE OFFICIAL CLUB OUTINGS

MAY 8 ... 10 a.m. MECUM INDY AUCTION. Something new this year. Meet at the Auction entrance. Visit mecum.com for full details. Tickets are \$25 Advance / \$30 at the door. FRIDAY Event.

MAY 16&17 Hoosier Swap Meet. Johnson County Fairgrounds.

JUN 13 ... COLUMBE ALL FORD OUTING. Near Moscow In. Join us for a fun day with Lincoln & T-bird owners. This a great chance to meet other T-Bird owners.

JUL 11 ... STUDEBAKER MUSEUM - SOUTH BEND. This could be an overnight outing. View the Concours D'Elegance car show on Sunday at the Copshaholm Mansion. Full details in coming month

Aug 1 Mustang / All Ford Show at Hendricks County Fair grounds. We have supported this show for many years.

AUG 22 ... 9 a.m. ANNUAL CRUISE INDY. Join us again as we support this worthy cause. Details coming soon.

Aug 29 Air Show at Grissom Air Base. Featuring the "U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds".

SEP 19 Club Picnic. Location to be determined.

OCT 4 Peru Circus Car Show (Not Confirmed yet)

OCT 17 Tour Haynes Museum and Seiberling in Kokomo.

NOV 14 Annual Yearend Luncheon and Election



CRUISE-IN'S

Monticello - Every Tuesday nite on the square. 5-9 p.m.

Avon - At Frostbite Custard S. of 36 on 267- Every Thursday 5 - 9 p.m. - Apr. to Sept.

Frankfort - 1st & 3rd Thursday - Around Courthouse - 5 to 8 p.m. - May thru Sept.

Tipton Downtown Square - Jackwagons CAR CLUB Will be having there their first Friday concert cruise-in series starting up in May and running through October.

Friday Nights:

Greenfield - 2nd Friday nite, April - Oct. Jim Dandy restaurant Hwy 9 & McKenzie

Danville, 1st Friday, May - Oct., on the square, 5 to 9 p.m.

Mooresville - Kroger Parking Lot, April - Sept 6-?pm

Lawrence - Pendleton Pike & Oaklandon Rd. in Family Leisure lot. Apr. thru Oct.

CAR'S-N-COFFEE

McCordsville Cars & Coffee held at McCord Square, 5811 Main Street, McCordsville. Held on a Sunday morning, 9am-11am, May through October.

Mooresville Cars & Coffee, Saturday, June 14th from 9-11am. at Dailey's Detailing & Coatings

Saturday Nights:

Downtown Noblesville Courthouse Square 5-9pm May thru Oct

Martinsville - SR37 & Long Johns Rest., 4p till?

CAR SHOWS (for a complete list, visit www.oldcarsonly.com)

May 2, 2025 - (Martinsville, IN) Join us for our 6th annual car and motorcycle show held at SingerHobbies, 2076 Burton Ln, Martinsville, IN. Dash Plaques for first 250 entered. Entry cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the day of the show.

May 9th, 2026, Indianapolis IN 46227, 3915 Madison Avenue. Friends Diner and Don Juan Taqueria: Carols Adventures Classic Car Truck and Bike Show. Mothers Day Show please bring a photo of your Mother to registration, \$20.00 begins at 11 am.

May 16, 2026 - (Indianapolis, IN 46201) Little Flower Athletic Car Show Fundraiser. Little Flower Catholic School 1401 Nowland Ave. (9am-3pm). Registration 9am-11am - \$20. All cars welcomed!

June 14, 2026 Crawfordsville, IN, Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival Car Show presented by Carpenter REALTORS. \$20 registration fee 8am-12noon, awards at 2pm.

June 27, 2026 - (Indianapolis /Wanamaker) Old Settlers Day Car Sow And Street Fair, Starts at 8am...



The Man and His Love of Cars



VTCIn members, past and present, who will always remember Bob's unending joy of relating a story for every car in his collection. We say thankyou and rest in peace.

Ford Claims 2025 U.S. Manufacturing And Export Crown

By [Brett Foote](#) April 13, 2026 (Reprinted from the "Ford Authority" Newsletter)

Ford is always quick to tout the fact that it builds 80 percent of the vehicles it sells in the U.S. in America, making it one of the largest manufacturers of vehicles in that country. The automaker does indeed have an impressive American manufacturing presence, and it's one that feeds quite a lot of jobs, both directly and indirectly, not to mention funnels a lot of money into the economy, in general. Now, it can lay claim to a few more domestic records for 2025, too.



Last year, Ford once again topped every other automaker in terms of not only U.S. vehicle assembly, but also, the number of vehicles it exported to other markets, as well as the number of hourly jobs it provides across America. The Blue Oval built and sold 1.8 million vehicles domestically in 2025, all while exporting another 311,000 and importing 378,000 from other countries. In total, Ford [built 2,446,486 vehicles](#) last year in the U.S.

This means that for 16 out of the past 17 years, Ford has ranked as America's top automotive assembler, and it employed 56,300 hourly manufacturing workers in the U.S. last year, also more than any other automaker. However, there are quite a few other interesting numbers present in all this data - including the fact that Ford assembles more than six vehicles in America for every one it imports, also leading the industry in that regard.



"We have the privilege of being a part of the lives of millions of Americans - and it's an honor we take humbly and seriously," said Ford CEO Jim Farley. "We're going to continue to invest. Ford - including our subsidiaries - plans to hire thousands of people across America in the next few years to support launching new gas, hybrid and electric vehicles; batteries; and battery energy storage systems. This commitment is nothing new for Ford. We've been proudly American for more than 120 years. And we don't plan to give up that top spot any time soon."

www.vintageThunderbirdclub.net

VTCL:

VTCLin: www.vtcin.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITES OFTEN!

**Vintage Thunderbird Club
Of Indiana
8575 N. County Rd. 650 E.
Brownsburg, In. 46112**



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"Our 35th year serving Hoosier Thunderbird owners"