

Volume 34 Number 2

APRIL 2025

*Thunderbird*

VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF INDIANA

# BIRD DROPPINGS



Thursday April 24

Join Us Inside  
These Doors

NEXT MONTH  
VP JOHN'S  
SPECIAL TREAT  
JOIN US MAY 17th  
AND FIND OUT!

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## *Spring, Sprang, Sprung*

Here in Indiana, we have already experienced False Spring and are currently in Extended Winter, with a brief intermission for rain and storms. The latest storms left so much damage in their wake, and I hope that you and your families were protected from harm. The recent heavy rains have also had a terrible impact on much of the state with many areas experiencing flooding, and again I hope that none of our members have been seriously impacted by it. If the old saying about April showers is correct, we should be expecting some excellent May flowers.

In March, we met at Capitol City Ford on the east side of Indianapolis, where we were hosted by Bob Thomas. Bob is both a member and sponsor of our club, and also happens to have a remarkable collection of cars (and stories that go with each of them). We began in the showroom where Bob is currently keeping a portion of his collection of Mustangs, plus a Mercury Cougar GT and a "James Bond" edition retrobird. From there we journeyed out to the restoration shop where we got a look at the fabulous work being done to an incredibly diverse group of cars – from a Thunderbird built for use by Henry Ford II, to a rare Dual Ghia, a Lincoln Continental Mark II, a Daimler, a Jaguar XK150 and a Shelby GT350! I'm sure I left something out, but it was quite a show! Hats off to Bob's staff for the incredible degree of skill! From there, we ventured to the building that houses part of Bob's collection, where we were treated to more amazing cars and were informed of which cars were going to various (and prestigious) shows around the country! Throw in lunch at Sero's Restaurant and it was quite a day! If memory serves me correctly, there were 18 members and guests present as well as five T-birds (not counting Bob's!).

For our April meeting, we prepare to go racing with a visit to the Dallara IndyCar Factory, located at 1201 Main Street in Speedway, with lunch to follow at Dawson's on Main just down the block. Our tour is on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Cost is \$15 per person. Since our tour is scheduled to begin at 10:30, please plan to arrive by 10:15. The tour will take approximately one hour.

Hope to see you all there! Until then, stay warm, dry and safe!

Thanks for reading,

*Dan*



*“Presidents Message”*

*April, 2025*

*By Dan Clark*





## Our Visit with Bob

Our thanks to our club sponsor, Bob Thomas for giving us another look at the fascinating process of world class auto restoration.



Photo Gallery



## DALLARA Indy Car Factory Tour

This month we will depart from our normal Saturday meeting day to visit one of the most fascinating processes involving Hi Tech materials, cutting edge engineering and fabrication as we visit the only company in the world who manufactures a totally unique product.

Dallara is a story of passion, talent, tenacity and enthusiasm. In January 1972, Giampaolo Dallara founded "Dallara Automobili da Competizione" in Varano de 'Melegari. When Dallara Group became the exclusive supplier for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES in 2012, the group opened Dallara USA: an engineering center in Speedway, Indiana.

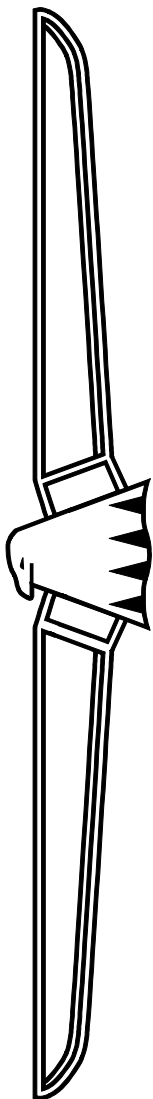
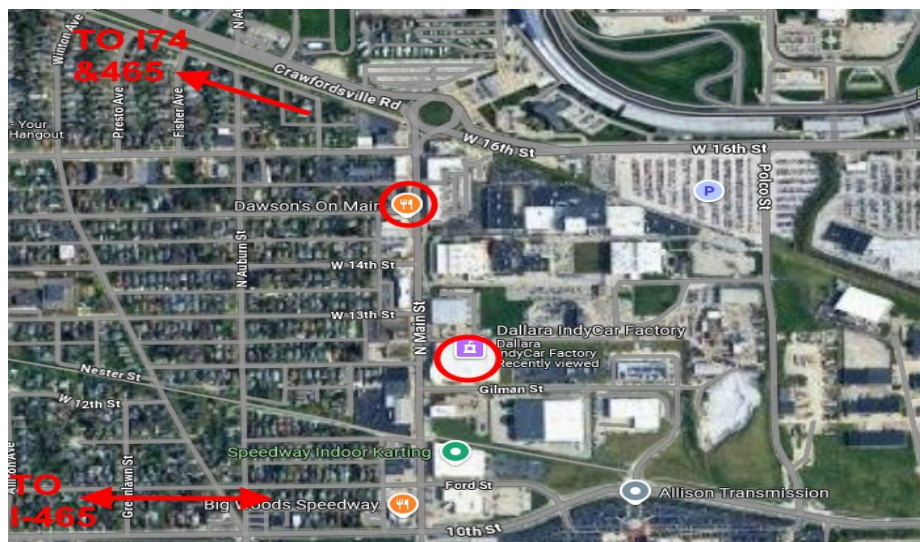
Since its opening, Dallara USA has also become the sole chassis supplier for the INDY NXT by Firestone Series and in 2016 began a joint venture with Cadillac to design and manufacture an LMP2 car, which became the Cadillac DPi that races in the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Championship. In collaboration with NASCAR, Dallara co-designed the Next Gen-7 car launched in 2022. Moreover, Dallara is selected as a vendor supplying teams with carbon fiber radiator inlets and outlets, produced at its Indianapolis facility.

Dallara USA has diversified into other business units such as aerospace and defense sectors and has been involved in the past ten years as a provider of innovative solutions, using the corporate know-how deriving from motorsport.



We will meet at their factory on Main Street in Speedway at 10:15 on Thursday, April 24th. There will be a cost of \$15 per person for the tour, but you will not be disappointed. After the tour, we will move up the street to Dawson's On Main for lunch.

Yes, we know that this is a Thursday and that some members may not be able to attend. Dallara only offers tours through the week, and for those who can attend, you will be thoroughly amazed.







# Club Calendar 2025

**APR 24..... TOUR OF DALLARA INDY CAR MAKER.** Meet at their (Thursday) Facility on Main St. in Speedway at 10:15 a.m. Cost will be \$15 / person. Lunch after at Dawson's on Main.

**MAY 17..... VP JOHN'S SPECIAL TREAT.** It's a special outing to Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our beloved T-Bird. Full details next month. Get the 'Bird ready to drive!

**MAY 18 .... *THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY. GET YOUR CAR OUT AND SHOW IT TO THE WORLD!***

**JUN 6-8.... CARLISLE ALL FORD NATIONAL MEET.** Carlisle, Pa. Full details at <https://carlisleevents.com>

**JUN 21..... ANNUAL COLUMBE GATHERING.** A great chance to meet and visit with other Ford clubs and to show off our cars to them. Make plans to join us for a great outing.

**JUL 19 .... OPEN AT THIS TIME**

**JUL 26..... NATIONAL MUSTANG SHOW.** This will probably be a Mustang only show as in the past.

**AUG 23.... ANNUAL CRUISE INDY FUNDRAISER.** This year it will be all in one location. More details to follow.

**SEP 9-13 VTCl-CTCl JOINT NATIONAL CONV.** Grapevine, Tx. See VTCl website for full details.

**SEP 20..... ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC.** Come join us under the trees for a wonderful gathering at Prather Park, 126th St. & River Rd. on the N.E. side of Indy.

**OCT 18.... TOUR OF NEWLY RENOVATED IMS MUSEUM.** Lunch afterwards on Mainstreet in Speedway.



## **CRUISE-IN'S**

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.

### **Friday Nights:**

March 28, 2025- October 24 2025 Indy Eastside Cruise In. Every Friday night 5pm - ? Located behind the Culver's in the Meijer parking lot, 11351 E. Washington St.

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

### **CAR'S-N-COFFEE**

- **APR 19** 8:00 AM 1:00 PM Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park
- **MAY 17** 8:00 AM 11:00 AM Fishers Event Center.
- **JUN 28** 8:00 AM 11:00 AM Connection Pointe Christian Church Brownsburg

### **Saturday Nights:**

Downtown Noblesville Courthouse Square 5-9pm May thru Oct

## **CAR SHOWS**

(for a complete list, visit [www.oldcarsonly.com](http://www.oldcarsonly.com))

**April 26, 2025 - (Indianapolis / Greenwood IN 46227)** Tommy & Lowes, 8850 Madison ave, 2nd annual car show . The show starts at 9am and ends at 3pm, But registration is from 9am till Noon Registration \$20.

**May 10, 2025 - ( Avon, IN 46123)** 2nd Annual Spark & Fuel Car & Motorcycle Event. Electric Plus 173 S County Road 525 E., Avon, IN. Registration starts at 10am. Free to attend and exhibit. Awards begin at 1:30pm.

**May 10, 2025 - ( Franklin IN. 4631 )** Franklin Cruisers Cruise In. 9:00 am til 3:00 Located at Tractor Supply 1540 N Morton St. Franklin In. Food trucks on site. 50/50 drawing. We will have larger parking available. Vendors welcome. All models welcome. For more information contact John @ 317-755-8960..

**May 10, 2025, - (Anderson, IN 46016)** Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show, downtown Anderson on Meridian Street, Rain or Shine, enter at 10th & Meridian; Registration 9:00 a.m. to noon; Awards at 3:30 p.m. Entry fee \$20. Proceeds benefit the Museum of Madison County History, operated by the Madison County Historical Society, celebrating 140+ years of preserving local heritage. The museum will be open for touring.

**May 26, 2025 - ( Indianapolis, IN. 46237 )** Memorial Day Open Car, Truck, Bike Show. All Makes, Models And Years Welcome. Show is Being Held At RITTER'S Frozen Custard 4949 East Stop 11 Just West Of Emerson Ave. Registration 9;30am Till 1pm,( **OR TILL LOT IS FULL**) Fee Is \$20.00. Dash Plaques . Awards At Apx 1;30 to 1;45pm.



## How Long Does Automatic Transmission Fluid Last And When Should You Change It?

Reprinted from the "Bumper" newsletter

By Jason Marker March 6, 2025 2:25 pm EST

Everybody makes a big deal about regular engine oil changes, and with good reason. What about transmission fluid, though? That does a lot of work, especially in a car or truck with an automatic transmission where it's not just lubricant but also the life's blood of the whole mechanism. Do you need to change your transmission fluid? If so, how often?

Most people don't think about transmission fluid until they absolutely have to — i.e., when it's too late. Even the most hardened gearhead might take their transmission fluid for granted if their transmission is shifting like it's supposed to.

Transmission fluid (we're going to call it ATF from here on out to save the ink) is way better now-days than it was even a decade ago. There have been constant advancements in the metallurgy and materials sciences that go into producing transmissions and the petro-science underpinning ATF itself throughout the century that cars have been around. Metals get stronger, tolerances get tighter, oils get slipperier, and things last a lot longer on even the cheapest modern car than they did on your father's Oldsmobile.

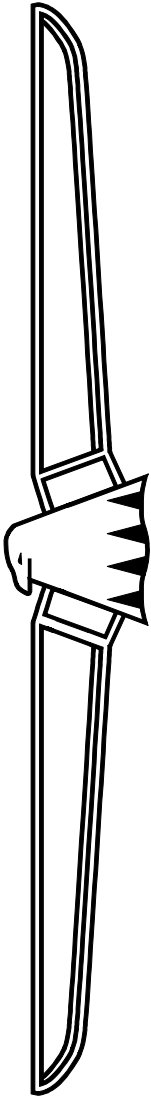


Like modern engine oils, modern transmission fluids come in two general flavors — synthetic and, uh...organic (dinosaur squeezeins). Honestly, if you have a newer vehicle or something that's still under warranty, just follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance intervals. The rule of thumb these days seems to be a full transmission flush and refill somewhere between 60,000 and 120,000 miles (96,560 and 193,121 kilometers for our friends in the civilized lands). That's a pretty broad spread, I admit, and it can be altered by a number of factors including how you drive, where you drive, if you're towing, and how hot it usually is where you drive. Don't worry too much about it, though. If you follow the suggested maintenance schedule, and listen to your dealership tech/neighborhood mechanic/oil change guy, you should be fine.

If you're driving an older vehicle, you'll need to be a bit more proactive in figuring out when and where to change your trans fluid. You should check the level (or have it checked if you don't do the work yourself) every oil change just to be sure. If your transmission is leaking or otherwise losing fluid, you don't want to be surprised.

It's pretty easy to tell when your ATF — or gear oil/Synchromesh/etc. if you have an old-timey bolt-action transmission — is worn out, especially if you're paying attention. A transmission with burnt, worn out, low, or otherwise compromised transmission fluid may behave badly and can even pose a danger to you while driving. The transmission might slip, losing power under acceleration, or the shifts between gears might be noticeably rougher and louder. The car might hesitate and surge while driving, or the transmission might get hotter than normal, reducing the transmission fluid's efficacy even further.

Again, don't worry too much about it. Make sure you check the transmission level during regular oil changes and check around where you regularly park to see if the car's leaking anything. If everything's good, it's more than likely good! If you're low, top the transmission off. Other than that, changing your ATF or gear oil every 100,000 miles is probably best practice. Remember, an ounce of prevention (regular maintenance) is worth a pound of cure (new transmission).







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VTCL:

[www.vtcin.com](http://www.vtcin.com)

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