



Ramblings

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GARDEN GROVE KIWANIS RAMBLINGS, PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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An O.C. classic, the first production Ford Thunderbird

GG Kiwanians Learn about a Classic!

Tonight's **Garden Grove Kiwanis** meeting started off with **President Tom** introducing a couple of guests. **Allen Johncox** who was our speaker for this evening and **John Perrot**, a long time **Garden Grove** resident and guest of **Bob Main** were with us for the evening. **Tom** announced that we had received a \$102 donation to **KiwanisLand** from the **Boeing Employees Community Fund** and also a \$100 donation to the **KiwanisLand Endowment** fund from **Bob** and **Lenny Main**. Also, thanks to **Walt D.**, **Jerry K.**, **Will S.**, **John L.**, **Gary S.**, **Don N.**, **Craig H.** and **Jerry M.** for representing the **Garden Grove Kiwanis Club** as "Team **KiwanisLand**" at the **Miss Garden Grove Texas Hold'em Tournament** on March 21st at the **Lions Clubhouse**. Although we didn't win the event, a good time was had by all.



The license plate on the car was also the first "personal plate" and was obtained before the DMV started the personal plates program...

KiwanisLand Pancake Breakfast

KiwanisLand Pancake Breakfast Chairman Efrain Davalos reminded **Club** members that we are still working on getting supplies for the event donated from either **Club** members or local businesses for the April 26th event. He will be visiting the **Garden Grove Costco** over the weekend to find out which supplies they will be able to donate for our event, so by next meeting he will have a definite list of the remaining items needed. So, if you know of a business that can assist with donations or you can provide a needed item, please coordinate with **Efrain**. **Placemat Committee Head Ed Hodges** said that the deadline for business card sponsorship for the placemat is April 2nd. For a simple \$100 donation, your business card will be proudly displayed to each **Pancake Breakfast** attendee and will help support our own great **Park**. Tickets for the event were handed out by **R.C. Gall** to each **Club** member in attendance at tonight's meeting with the remainder to be distributed to members. **Club** members will be given 10 tickets to sell at \$5 each and the amount will be added to your **Club** dues. If additional tickets are needed, contact **Ed Hodges**.

Program

Tonight's Program was **Allen Johncox**, an attorney in **Orange**. **Allen** told us that he was a **Key Club** member in high school in **Downey** in the '70's and served in the **Army** and has been a Police Officer. He founded the **Orange County Parrot Head Club**, a non-profit charity organization made up of **Jimmy Buffet** fans that have fun and raise money for charities such as the **Ronald McDonald House**. **Allen** is the attorney and broker for the family of the late **George Watts**, who discovered, purchased and restored what was verified as the first production **Thunderbird** off of the **Ford** assembly line. **George** was an insurance executive who lived in **Villa Park** and had all ready restored a **T-Bird** when he found the vehicle in 1965 at a body shop in **Santa Ana**. He paid \$500 for it after noticing the low VIN. As he uncovered the history of the car, he found that it was originally sold new at **Ted Robbins Ford** in **Newport Beach** to a woman whose son-in-law had been in a front-end crash and then couldn't make the repair payments. It had been stored outdoors for over a year, and was in very bad shape. **George** tore the car completely down and spent \$900 and two years in restoring it to it's original condition. There where 16,155 **Thunderbirds** built during the 1955 model year and **Ford** verified that this car was the first production **Thunderbird** and that it had rolled out of the factory on Sept. 9, 1954. **Ford** formed a special relation with **Mr. Watts** and they picked up and displayed the car extensively at its major promotional events. They let **George** buy the "first down the line" of many of the **Thunderbird** models and even let him purchase the one millionth **Thunderbird** down the production line. **George** passed away in 2004 and his family finally decided to auction the car in late 2008. They offered to sell it to **Ford**, but they declined and so on Jan. 17, 2009 it was sold at the **Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction** in **Scottsdale** for \$600,000. It was purchased by **Ron Pratte** of **Chandler, AZ** for his car museum.

Happy/Sad

R.C. - Happy \$ for a great Program tonight and Happy \$ that he got to sit next to **Amy K.** this evening.
Amy K. - Happy \$ just because she is happy. **Brent H.** - Happy \$ to be here tonight and for the excellent Program.
Jerry K. - Happy \$ that he gets to go to the racetrack tomorrow with **R.C.** and get all of his tips on winning.
Bruce B. - Happy \$ for the Program tonight. Sad \$ because **Ford** should have kept the **Thunderbird** line going.
Bob M. - Happy \$ for the great Program tonight. Sad \$ that **Shelly S.** not feeling well.
John Perrot - Happy \$ for a fine meal and good Program. **Tony L.** - Happy \$ for the really good Program.
Ed H. - Happy \$ for the Program and for **R.C. Gall** helping to pass out the **KiwanisLand Pancake Breakfast** tickets.
Efrain D. - Happy \$ to be here tonight and for the good Program. **Don N.** - Happy \$ for the great Program tonight.
Gary S. - Happy \$ for the great Program and wants to know if **Allen Johncox** works with **Corvettes**.
Walt D. - Happy \$ for the Program and that he is a **Ford** man. **Tom P.** - Happy \$ for the good Program this evening.
Gerry N. - Sad \$ for missing meeting last week. Happy \$ for great Program that we had this evening.

Upcoming Events

Apr 05 GG Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at KiwanisLand
Apr 26 GG Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast to benefit KiwanisLand

Thought For The Week

"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

Gerry Newlark