

The Birds' Nest

Official Newsletter of the Buffalo Thunderbird Club
October 2012
<http://www.buffalothunderbirdclub.org>

Secretaries Report:

Our September meeting was our club picnic courtesy of Byrnie and Paul Schonhart. We enjoyed a relaxing and delicious afternoon. Our THANKS to Byrnie and Paul for a lovely afternoon. We discussed the success of our car show, upcoming meetings and officer elections. President, Vice President and secretary positions are open for nominations. We routinely have 10 meetings per year, our annual car show and rally. Meetings locations and activities are decided by the club as a group during meetings. We have many experienced members who would be happy to assist officers who may be new to the position. Please consider becoming a club officer.

Our October meeting is going to be the 2nd Saturday— Oct 13th. Sandy and Ted Becker will be hosting Oktoberfest at their home. Dinner/meeting to start at 5:30. In honor of Oktoberfest please bring a German beer or wine to the meeting (instead of a dish to pass). Please RSVP to Sandy and Ted at 652-7537 by Monday October 8th. Lederhosen optional!!!

Save the date: Just a reminder that our Christmas party date is Saturday December 8th (the 2nd Saturday of December). There will be no November meeting.

See you at Oktoberfest!!!-Frau Schueler

**The Next
Meeting is
October 13
at the
Beckers**



Thank You to Gregg Zimmerman for all the articles contributed to our newsletter, we would only have one page without him!

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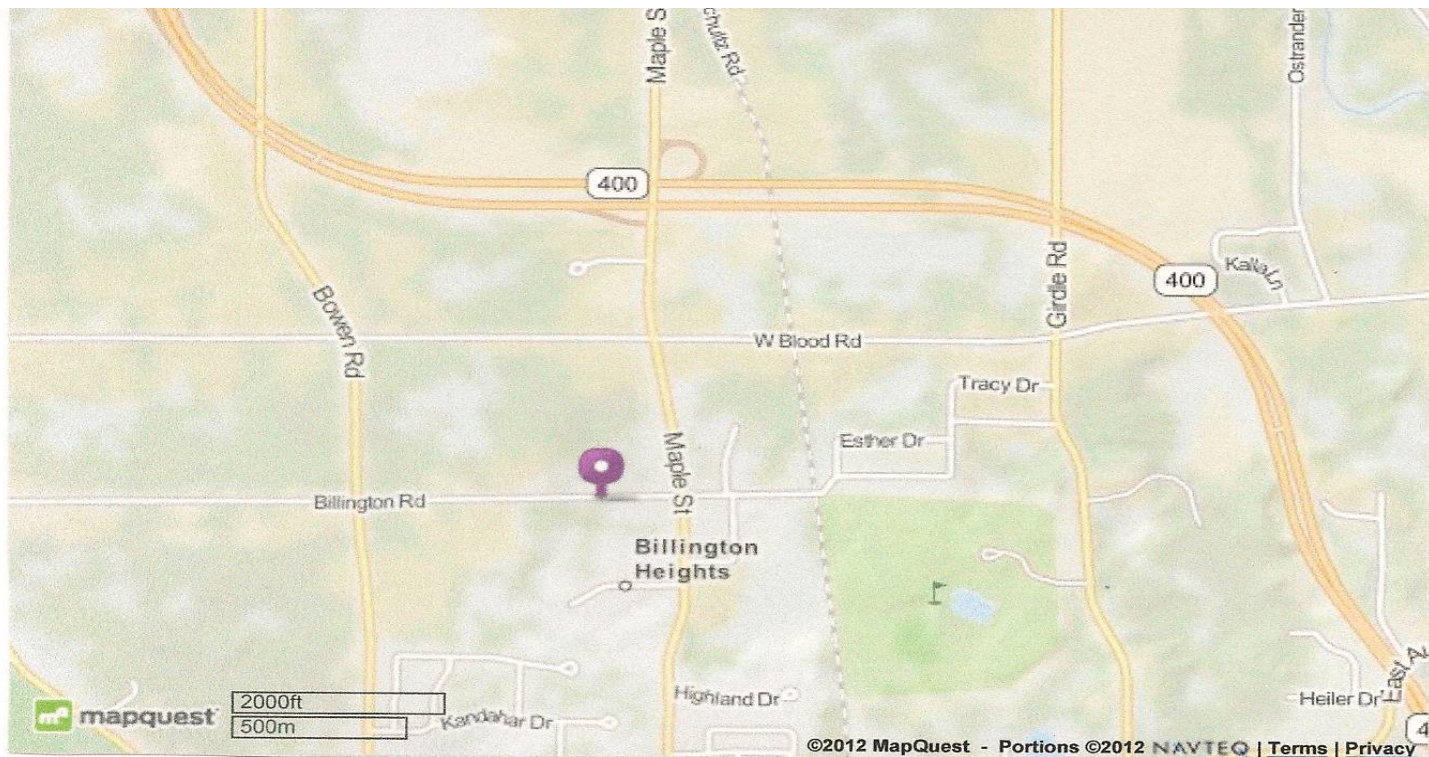
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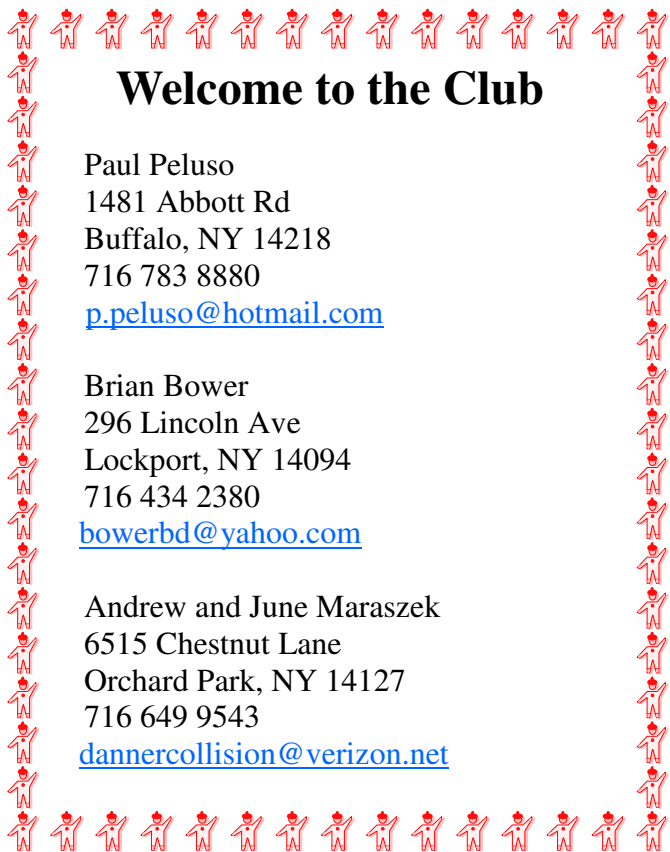
BIRDS!

Support WEST-HERR FORD, our club's sponsor



Next Meeting: "Our next meeting will be OKTOBERFEST at Ted & Sandy Becker's home on Saturday, October 13th at 5:30 PM. All the food will be provided, so there will be no need to bring a dish to pass. If you know a tasty German beer, wine, or other beverage you would like to share, you may bring it. It is very important to call so we have enough food. **Please call no later than Weds, Oct. 8th at 652-7537.**

Directions: Rt. 400 south to Maple exit, turn Right, second cross road is Billington, turn Right, 700 feet to 2020 Billington on your Left



Welcome to the Club

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Q&A

Q Regarding the July 12 Q&A about ethanol, I work for Gold Eagle Company, the producers of STA-BIL, HEET and Octane 104 and felt I could add more information and insight to this discussion. The addition of ethanol began in Midwestern states in the mid-1980s. In 1988, Denver, Colo., mandated its use to improve air quality. From there the use of ethanol exploded in the mid to late '90s with more major metropolitan areas requiring oxygenated fuels, along with tax incentives for its use. Fuel blends with ethanol do burn cleaner with fewer emissions of benzene and hydrocarbons. However, ethanol produces less power per gallon, and is therefore less efficient than gasoline, meaning your gas mileage will suffer. Currently E10 (10 percent ethanol, 90 percent gasoline) is the most common fuel in the United States.

The buzz around ethanol recently has been about phase separation. Ethanol is hygroscopic, meaning that it attracts water from the atmosphere and condensation that occurs in the tank. Phase separation will occur at 0.5 percent water saturation of the gasoline — as little as half a tablespoon of water in one gallon of fuel at low temperatures. Ethanol and gasoline have a weak chemical bond, while water and ethanol have a very strong bond. The ethanol and the water bond in the tank. Once that bonding has occurred, the water and ethanol mixture will sink to the bottom of the tank, creating phase separation. This mixture of water and ethanol is very corrosive and can cause corrosion of metal and aluminum parts throughout your fuel system. Adding a water remover like ISO-HEET Premium Gas Line Antifreeze prior to phase

separation will grab the moisture and keep it emulsified within the gasoline longer. STA-BIL Ethanol Treatment also has a non-alcohol water absorber that will delay phase separation. Phase separation cannot be cured once it has happened, and you will need to drain your fuel system completely to prevent damage, so the key is to prevent the problem before it happens.

The second major issue with ethanol-blended fuel is stability. Current blends of fuel you buy at the pump start to degrade 30 to 90 days after production. Once the fuel starts to degrade it begins to lose its flammability along with its octane. It will also start to deposit gum and varnish in your carburetor and fuel lines.

These issues are prevalent in classic cars that are not driven regularly, small engine equipment and the marine world. All of these fuel systems are commonly vented to the atmosphere where they are free to absorb moisture and be exposed to the air. Gold Eagle, the maker of STA-BIL, has created fuel stabilizers and ethanol treatments for many original equipment manufacturers who are fighting these moisture and stability issues. They are aware of the issues and many have created technical bulletins so you can learn more.

The best way to fight the harmful effects of ethanol is knowledge of what fuel is and how to treat it. If you think your car or gas-powered equipment will have the same tank of fuel in it for more than 30 days you should use a stabilizing fuel treatment like STA-BIL Ethanol Treatment. When you store for the off season you should add a fuel stabilizer to fresh fuel and run the engine so the stabilized fuel makes it into

the fuel lines and carburetor. Fill the tank 95 percent full with fresh fuel and stabilizer. Remember, it is essential to stabilize fresh fuel. If the fuel is already degraded the stabilizer will not work properly.

For more information about gasoline, ethanol and proper storage techniques please visit www.goldeagle.com under our "Engine Care" tab.

— *Matthew Banach, Field Sales Representative, Gold Eagle Company, Chicago, Ill.*

To submit questions to this column: E-mail oldcars@krause.com or mail to: Q&A, c/o Old Cars Weekly, 700 E. State St., Jola, WI 54000