

Thunder Words



January 2025 ~ Volume 48, #1
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: Welcome to 2025, the T bird's 71st year! Many thanks to **Marty** for serving as our president for three straight years. He always does a great job! I look forward to working with this year's officers who are identified elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks, as always, to **Jack** for serving as our award-winning newsletter editor! I always enjoy T-Bird talks with so many of our knowledgeable members. "**T-Bird Tom**" **Woodman** says he's retired but continues to work on his own projects. He's really been a great help to many of us and will continue to share his

knowledge. At the last meeting, he showed us what a gas tank filter looks like after 60-plus years. My guess is that several members have never seen one! Our first 2025 business meeting will be on March 20th at The Copper Kettle Café in Omaha. Our meetings will continue on the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6 PM and alternating between Omaha and The Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly unless notified otherwise. Several events were canceled last year, so we'll reschedule them. **Marty** has agreed to host a tech session and scope out car shows, and **Jim** and **Jeff** will give us a western IA tour option to consider, hopefully with the IA chapter. Please bring other tour suggestions to meetings or call me to discuss them. Remember, it's OK to participate in club activities even if you are not driving your Thunderbird. Here's to a fun '25.

Rob Kinsey, President



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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club December 2024

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly, NE. The members present were **Martin and Mary Lou Bierman, Rob and Vicki Kinsey, Tom Woodman, Jeff Brown, John La Duke, Jim Lantz, Jeff Hoffman, Jack Sanford,** and your humble servant **Quentin Moeller**.

Marty opened the meeting by thanking **John and Michelle Moore** for hosting the Friendsgiving dinner. There was much work putting it together, and all attending immensely enjoyed it.

November's minutes were approved by **John La Duke's** motion and **Mary Lou's** second.

Jeff Brown gave the treasurer's report. Discussion followed regarding the donation to the food bank. All approved a motion by **Rob** and a second by **Tom**. The website provider has raised the fee. A discussion followed, and the item was deferred until later.

There was no **old business**.

New Business: It was decided not to hold a January and February meeting. **Marty** stated that he has the annual CTCI report ready to submit. Discussion on next year's activity: a May drive through some of Lincoln's senior citizen facilities. We have done this in the past, and it has been well received.

The "Change of Command" ceremony followed as **Marty** handed over the official gavel to the incoming President, **Rob Kinsey**. After this, **Rob** presented **Marty** with a beautiful plaque honoring his past service to the club.

Jack then managed the drawing to see who would be the lucky members to take home the beautiful table centerpieces; the lucky two were Vicki and **Tom**.

Brag:

Tom says he's finally closing down his business.

Jeff Hoffman and **Jim Lantz** have rented a roll-off. It seems they are attempting to empty their storage building.

Marty and **Mary Lou** have one grandson who is getting married and another who has just been promoted to 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army. Congratulations, and thank you for your service.

Tom then presented an informative show-and-tell regarding a clogged fuel tank pickup.

Unfortunately, you may have to change the gas tank if this occurs.

REMEMBER THERE IS NO MEETING UNTIL MARCH.....Check here for the date and time!!

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by **Tom**, with a second by **John**.

Respectfully submitted, **Quentin Moeller**, Secretary



T-BIRD TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

“I want a modern radio!”



Antique Automobile Radio, Inc. offers a reproduction radio for the Classic T-Bird, which looks original but has AM/FM stations and Bluetooth technology. Bluetooth offers the ability to place and receive calls hands-free and stream music from any device that will connect by Bluetooth, e.g., any smartphone. The radios come in a 1955 model, and the 1956-7 Town and Country model all require 12 volts. The radio is extremely small and



light compared to the original ones, and the dimensions are 8.75” W x 2.5” H x 2.75” D. Original speakers cannot be used, and a dual voice coil 6x9 inch speaker is recommended. All knobs are original, and an antenna jack and three RCA jacks are provided. The maximum power is 180 watts (45 watts x

4 speakers). The attached wire loom has a light wire, power wire, and speaker wires. They are expensive but worth the price at \$750 for the 1955 model and \$850 for the 1956-7 Town and Country model.

I have installed two of these radios with dual voice coil speakers in my T-Birds. The sound is excellent, and the Bluetooth works as advertised. They may be purchased from any of our T-Bird vendors or directly from Antique Automobile Radio, Inc. Installation is not difficult unless one has an air conditioner unit under the dash and below the radio. In that case, the AC evaporator needs to be moved aside for access to the underside of the dash.

A Little Humor

From Pony Tales December 2024

AN OLD FRENCH LADY HAD A SMALL SHOP IN HER VILLAGE for years until one day a huge corporate supermarket set up across the road from her little shop. They put up signs advertising their prices, including one that said: Butter – 10 francs. In response, the old lady added a sign to her own window: Butter – 9 francs.

The next day, the big supermarket had a new sign: Butter – 8 francs.

Sure enough, the day after, the lady’s sign now read: Butter – 7 francs.

This continued until, eventually, one of the lady’s customers pointed to the sign and said, “Madame, you cannot keep your prices so low for long. These big companies can use their buying power to sell products cheaper, but a little store like yours can never compete.”

In response, the old lady bent forward conspiratorially and muttered, “Monsieur, I don’t even sell butter.”



CTCI NEWS

Save the Date

Joint Thunderbird Convention
 CTCI - Grapevine, Texas 2025 - VTCl
 September 9-13, 2025
 Hosted by
 Classic Thunderbird Club International
 &
 Vintage Thunderbird Club International



Inaugural, Joint International Thunderbird Club Event: Where Thunderbird enthusiasts from around the world are invited to this first-ever joint Thunderbird Club event hosted by VTCl and CTCl

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites Rate: \$159 per night
 2401 Bass Pro Drive, North Grapevine, Texas 76051 (972) 724-2600, Option 1
 Reservation Link: All Thunderbird Club – 2025 Convention event; Group Code: C 90E;
 Weblink: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/all-thunderbird-club-2025/>
 Cutoff Date: August 12, 2025.

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday Sept 9 th	Convention Set up "Bird Bath" DIY
Wednesday Sept 10 th	10AM Convention Check-In Begins - Embassy "Bird Bath" DIY
	1PM Depart For AT&T Stadium ...includes Motor Coach and AT&T admission
	5PM Featured Speaker - INVITED Guest John Kraman, MECUM Auctions
	Dinner On Own
Thursday Sept 11 th	8AM-9PM Convention Check-In Embassy and "Bird Bath" DIY
	9AM VTCl BOD/Gen Membership/VTCl Judge Training
	9AM CTCl Judge Training
	1PM (Attendee Choice) Depart For Thunderbird Driving Tour to Texas Motor Speedway
	1PM (Attendee Choice) Depart For George Bush Library ...includes Motor Coach and admission
	5:00PM Featured Speaker - Steve Legel - "The Greying of the Classic Car Hobby"
Dinner On Own	
Friday Sept 12 th	8AM Separate VTCl and CTCl Owners and Operators Meetings
	9AM VTCl and CTCl Separate Concours Judging - All Classes - Embassy Suites Parking Lot
	10AM Depart for Dallas Arboretum-incl Motor Coach/admission-for car owners not involved with Concours Judging-lunch on own at the Terrace Cafe
	12PM Combined VTCl/CTCl Concours Judges Lunch
6PM The All Thunderbird Party with Cash Bar, Recognition Awards and Entertainment	
Saturday Sept 13 th	7AM Swap Meet Hotel Parking Lot
	10AM On Your own Grapevine Historic District Shopping - Free Shuttle from Hotel
	10AM Thunderbird Driving Tour: Sam Pack's Private Automobile Collection; Lunch
	1PM Tour concludes with stop at Miner's Thunderbird Restoration facility for VIP Tour
	5:30PM Cocktail Hour/6:30PM Award Banquet ...Plated Entrée w/ cash bar please mark preference below.
	Chicken, Salmon, or Steak, (includes Salad, Dessert or Dietary meal plus Coffee/Tea). All Gluten Free - -
Sunday Sept 14 th	Bon Voyage



Grapevine Texas

While Texas is known for its wide-open Western spaces, big modern cities and famous small towns, the suburban city of Grapevine has carved out a historic niche from the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolx that will surprise and gladden the hearts of Old West fans. The city has invested a great deal in its vibrant, walkable downtown, with its restaurants, shops and nighttime entertainment as well as its ever-popular Grapevine Vintage Railroad.

grapevinechamber.org



Grapevine Vintage Railroad
 Starting, leaving Vintage Railroad



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Member News

Member Joel Schlessinger sent the following article.

The Moylan Arrow: The Gas Tank Indicator Was a Ford Invention. These days, many convenient features are present in automobiles that we tend to take for granted – and in many cases, many folks may not even be aware of. The gas tank indicator – or Moylan Arrow as it's otherwise known – is certainly such a feature. That tiny little arrow that indicates which side of a vehicle the gas tank filler is located on has come in handy for many people over the years, saving them the trouble of pulling into the wrong side of a pump, but some may not be aware that a Ford employee invented it. In this recent episode of “Ted Talks,” Ford’s Archives and Heritage Brand Manager Ted Ryan reminds us of this interesting piece of automotive history that the Ford Authority reported on [back in 2020](#). The idea for the Moylan Arrow came from former Ford engineer Jim Moylan, who found himself rather frustrated with the fact that there wasn’t a simple way to know which side of a vehicle the gas tank was located on.



As such, Moylan headed to the office, drew up a rough sketch of a fuel gauge arrow, and then sent it to the company’s idea submission line. “Wouldn’t it be great if you always knew what side of the car the gas tank was on?” Moylan asked his superiors. Ford Brass immediately recognized this as a great idea and quickly implemented it into production vehicles. The Moylan Arrow made so much sense that other automotive manufacturers also adopted it, and today, it’s hard to imagine a world where this helpful little indicator didn’t exist.



Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still a low \$15 per year, probably the best deal in town. Established in 1975, the **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to preserving and enjoying one of the greatest cars ever created: the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantages of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, shows, and the annual Christmas/Friendsgiving party
- Members with restoration and repair experience
- Assistance with parts acquisition and location
- CTCI master judge to assist with authenticity issues
- Monthly newsletter with a calendar of events and tech articles
- Club participation in car shows and parades

2025 Membership dues - \$15.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers:
 Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email(s) _____

Please send this form and check for membership dues payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of **Jeff Brown**, Treasurer, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128



2025 Calendar of Events

March 2 – 51st Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center - Lincoln (same location, new name – 4100 North 84th Street)

March 20 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Coffee Kettle Café, 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr. Omaha, NE

FOR SALE

Dave Freeburg's family is selling Dave's 1957 Thunderbird. Dave's health issues are prompting this action.

My parents were active members of the Thunderbird Club in Omaha. My Dad's health has turned, and we are looking to sell his 1957 Ford Thunderbird. It has a 312 engine, automatic transmission, power steering, and brakes. It is Star Mist Blue with a black interior. It has a new battery, runs well, and is a presentable car. It has a hard top with portholes.

(402) 216-8579. I am a local in Omaha and could show the car.

Mari Anne Hartmann



Member Birthday
January
Marsha Smith 17
 If you want to be recognized,
 please send your birthdate to
jesanford@cox.net.

The **Member Profile** feature needs your help. Send your story to Jack at jesanford@cox.net.

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Robert Kinsey	402-434-9053
Vice President	Martin Bierman	402-289-4516
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	402-572-1995
Secretary	Quentin Moeller	303-204-1761
CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman	402-289-4516
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Historian	Robert McGowan	402-334-2593
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Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford	402-342-6767

“ThunderWords” is the official publication of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, Chapter 65 of Classic Thunderbird Club International. Annual dues are \$15, payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of Jeff Brown, Treasurer, 7225 S 103rd ST, LaVista, NE 68128.



Nebraskaland Club Logos. 2X3 ½ inch patch can be sewn or glued on with fabric glue. Look great on shirts, caps, and jackets. Contact Jack at 402-392-1350 – jesanford@cox.net

A GUY GOES IN FOR AN INTERVIEW FOR A SALESMAN POSITION.

The interviewer hands the man a computer and says, “Okay, sell me this computer.” So, the guy picks up the computer and walks out. The next day, the interviewer calls the guy, “I need you to bring that computer back now!” The guy says, “\$500 and it’s yours.”



A look at the past. – May 2022

