

Thunder Words



July 2025 ~ Volume 48, #7
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



PREZ SAYS: Good fellowship and discussion at Trackside for our June business meeting in Waverly. **Larry Dawes**, owner of a black '55 Bird, joined us after seeing our club identified in the car council directory and visiting our website. He introduced himself and signed an application for membership in our club. He is a CTCI member. Please be sure to welcome **Larry** to our club. The Omaha area

Sonic Tour, organized by **Jack**, was postponed due to the anticipated heat. **Jack** put together quite a tour, so we plan to try it again later this year. Plan to attend the July Tech Session hosted by **Marty** and **Mary Lou** on July 19th. **Marty's** program, as always, will be very interesting. **Mary Lou** has a shopping outing planned as well, at new hotspots in Elkhorn. We did not have a Treasurer's report, but the Brag Box is getting full. We are still looking for a secretary, so let **Jack**, **Marty**, **Jeff**, or **me** know if you are willing to assist. A tour/parade to an assisted living facility in Ashland was discussed and is anticipated once it's cooler weather. See everyone at **Marty** and **Mary Lou's** in July. **President Rob Kinsey**

July Tech Session
July 19, 2025, 12:00 pm
Marty's Garage (see p. 6)

July Dates:
4 – Independence Day
11 – Collector Car
Appreciation Day

Next meeting July 17, 2025.
6 pm – Copper Kettle Cafe
Omaha, NE



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June Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2025, Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Meeting Minutes

President Rob Kinsey opened the meeting at 6:15 PM. Introduced a new member, **Larry Dawes**, of Omaha, who has a Black 1955 T-Bird. Those present were **Rob Kinsey, Marty and Mary Lou Bierman, John LaDuke, and Jack Sanford.**

A motion by **Mary Lou** to accept the May meeting minutes as scribed in the June Newsletter was seconded by **Marty**. The motion passed. **Rob** and **Marty** received a Thank you note from Brian Carron for the club's national convention donation. **Rob** complimented the newsletter editor on the fine newsletters. He also commented on the respectable article **Marty** submitted to the Early Bird, titled "Around the Aviary." **Marty** explained that he had sent the article in December, and it was side-tracked, finally being run in the May/June Early Bird issue. **Marty** has also changed the starting time for the July Tech Session from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM. (see page __) The July 19th event will be by RSVP. We need this to reflect the number of men and women, transportation for the women, and the number for the Jukes' lunch. The tech session will include optional t-bird lighting, the Sun machine demonstration, and a child's 1955 electric car. **Mary Lou** will tour the new shops in Elkhorn. June 22, 2025, event was discussed, and it was decided to postpone the event due to the pending heat wave expected to hit Omaha on Sunday.

Under **New business**, a short discussion about a retirement home show at Oxbow in Ashland in August. Details in the August newsletter.

Brags: Rob wanted to give a shout-out to Tom Woodman for fixing his car door. Vicki was very pleased with the visit the members of last month's tour paid her.

Larry didn't have a brag, but a question. His radiator was losing water after the car had come to a stop in the garage. It turns out he had been filling it too full.

Marty and Mary Lou's daughter's fourth son is going to college in Iowa State. He plays the Tenor Saxophone in the marching band. They are looking forward to many trips to Ames.

John's Volvo is a hybrid, and the last time he bought gas was January 15th. When he filled up last week and calculated his mileage, he was getting 180 miles per gallon. WOW

Jack purchased a sander and batteries and received a complimentary 3/8-inch power wrench from Lowe's.

The meeting was closed at 6:57 p.m. after **John LaDuke's** motion and **Mary Lou's** second were passed. Respectively reported by **Jack Sanford**, Acting Secretary



Jack

Mary Lou

Marty

Larry John

Rob

BIRD TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman "My hood won't open."



Question - A 1955 T-Bird owner can't open his hood.

Answer- This problem usually occurs due to a broken hood release cable which breaks on pulling to open the hood. The only solution to this is to move the hood release lever from under the car. The lever is located on the driver side of the hood release bar just below the starter solenoid. The car will

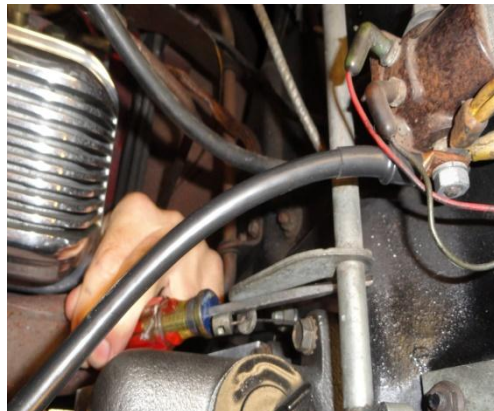


Figure 1

need to be on a lift or raised up on jack stands. One can reach up to the release lever on the hood release bar and move it toward the firewall with a long bar, screwdriver or the special tool sold by Classic Auto Supply Company (CASCO) (See figure 1 & 2). Be careful that a tool does not touch the starter solenoid lug where the battery cable is attached.



Figure 2



Figure 3

The passenger side of the hood release bar is more accessible between the heater box and the right exhaust manifold and there is more room to reach the bar. Attach a Vice Grip to it (Figure 3) and then pull down, moving the bar toward the firewall.

It helps to have a second person pushing down on the hood at the corner when trying to release the hood. A wire coat hanger or a steel wire cable can be fed under the dash to the hood release lever to serve as an emergency hood release if the hood release cable should break in the future.

CTCI NEWS

Still time to register for the inaugural All Thunderbird CONCOURS/DRIVING EVENT Convention, September 9-13, 2025. Some of the tours are filling up, don't miss out!

Hosted by the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) and Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI). The joint convention theme is: ***Stronger Together '55-'05 in '25; Driving The Past Into The Future***

If you have already registered for the Convention and made your hotel reservations, thank you! We look forward to spending time with you in Grapevine!

You Don't Want to Miss This Convention

- A historic, **first-ever, ALL** 1955-2005 Thunderbird Convention
- The only sanctioned Thunderbird Convention in 2025.
- Driving events; Featured Speakers
- Meet VTCI and CTCI Leadership (put a face to a name); Enjoy Thunderbird camaraderie
- Great sponsors; find the list on the CTCI website.

Registration Details

- Your CTCI Registration form was enclosed in the latest issues of the *Early Bird*.
- The convention registration form is also available on the CTCI website; click on Events and look for the 2025 Convention page.
- **If you've already registered, don't forget to make your Hotel Reservations – Rooms are still available - Registration closes August 12th, 2025.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- Hotel reservations can be made at the Embassy Suites, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, Texas, 76051; Attendee code is 92R
- Reservations: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend/allthunderbird-club-2025/>
- You can call the hotel at (972) 724-2600, Option 1; Group Code 92R, for reservations
- **Please Note: While the new attendee reservations at the Embassy Suites are for \$179 plus taxes/night, the attendees will only pay, when they check out, \$159 plus taxes for each night of their stay. The difference is being picked up by a benefactor.**
- **If you've already made Hotel Reservations, please don't forget to submit your Convention Registration...see above for Registration details above.**

We hope you will honor us with your attendance....and have a GREAT experience.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the CTCI office at ctcioffice@ctci.org or 816-421-8273 (Tuesday through Friday).

See you September 9-13, 2025, in Grapevine, Texas



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Member News

Article by Rob Kinsey

As all Temples in the network of the North American Shrine Tangier Temple had the basic parade units, consisting of foot patrols, bands, motorcycles and convertibles. In 1975, three members of Tangier Temple conceived the idea of organizing a new parade unit consisting of the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbird roadsters. The T-Bird Classics officially became a parade unit of Tangier Temple in 1976. The original by-laws were written to allow for a membership of 18. So much interest was generated in this new unit that in 1979 the by-laws were updated to allow for membership of 24.

The T-Bird Classics are the only unit in the network of North American Shrine exclusively displaying the 1955 through 1957 Thunderbird.



The date of this photo is unknown, but the members for the Centennial Year of 1989 are Gwen D. Atwell, Bill Cramer, E. J. Peterson, Darrell Timmons, Don Sudbeck, Gordon Boyer, Gary Churchill, Joe Hansen, Kermit Holmes, Pete Krause, Cary Manson, Don Rowe, Paul Schroeder and Butch Smith.

Editor's note; red and black seem to be popular colors. I'm sure that some of these fellows were members of Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club.

Joel Hutchins' continuing story.

Now for the real mix. The T-Bird is basically done, unless you want to drive it on the highway then you want some more work done. I drove it to Lincoln last Monday, fairly smooth and at 80 mph we got there with no problem. Dee came out and Mark wanted me to take her for a ride. Turned the key and nothing happened, Mark immediately wanted to know how old the battery was, 01/24, was the date stamp on it, I told him I had the A/C on full on the trip to Lincoln, the lights on and my phone plugged in to give me an inkling of my speed as the speed-o-meter gear has to be changed at some point. The generator was removed when I was installing the new A/C system and a new alternator was installed, Mike's Classic Cars (MCC) people said it was not working and put a new one from Speedway Motors in place of the new old one I had installed. Today I drove the car to MCC, and it was putting out 12.2 volts only, should put out 14+ with the engine running, so a new one is ordered. I see no problem with the trip to Montana with Kathy in July, it will be kind of quiet, no voices as the wind noise with the top up or down precludes normal speech, we could yell but I am not sure I can yell loud enough anymore to make myself heard and understood. So, it goes. Joel



2025 Calendar of Events

July 19 – Marty's Tech Session – 12:00 am - Elkhorn Shop – Mary Lou shopping – Lunch at Shevy's

September 9-14 – CTCI/VTCL International Convention – Grapevine, TX

November 22 – Friendsgiving Dinner – save the date

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Tech Session, Elkhorn Shopping and Luncheon

Date: July 19, Saturday, 12 noon

Place: Martin Bierman's shop at 20802 Elkhorn Dr. (at Elkhorn Storage Housey Brothers across from the parking lot with the recycling containers)

The tech session will last approximately one hour and cover interesting T-Bird lighting options, demonstration of the 1955 T-Bird Jr. Power Car and use of the Sun Distributor Tester. Mary Lou Bierman will take the women members on a shopping tour of several new Elkhorn shops. Lunch will follow at 1:15 p.m. in a private party room at Shevy's Sports Bar and Grill 2607 N. Main St. in downtown Elkhorn, (approximately 3 blocks to the east of the shop).



Directions to shop - HI way 31 (204th St) to Elkhorn. At north side of viaduct turn left on Corby for 2 blocks, left on Main St. for ½ block and right on Elkhorn Dr. for 3 blocks. The shop is on the north side.

RSVP by July 16 to Martin at nefron1@cox.net and please indicate how many women members will be attending.

The shop is air conditioned and there is ample parking in front and on the drive side for T-Birds. Parking is limited in downtown Elkhorn and Mary Lou and Martin will shuttle to Shevy's those members who wish to leave their T-Birds at the shop. This is a rain or shine event but if the sun shines drive your T-Bird!



Fosters



Member Birthday

July

John Henderson - 13

Rob Kinsey – 16

Ruth Henderson - 19

Clarence Johson - 22

If you want to be recognized,
please send your birthdate to
jesanford@cox.net.

July 1 – National Doctors' Day

July 2 – World Sports Journalist Day

July 11 – World Population Day

July 17 – International Justice Day

July 20 – World Chess Day

July 23 – National Broadcasting Day

July 24 - Income Tax Day

July 29 – International Tiger Day

July 30 – International Day of Friendship

July 31 – World Ranger Day

The small 10-inch hubcap on
the 1955 and 1956
Thunderbirds may be used
with or without the wire wheel
covers. The 1955 small
hubcaps had red painted
centers. The 1956 had white
painted centers.

The **Member News**

feature needs your help.

Send your story to Jack at
jesanford@cox.net.

We are still looking for a secretary.
Let Rob know if you are interested.

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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Vice President	Martin Bierman	402-289-4516
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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-
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