

# Thunder Words

hello  
SPRING



March 2024 ~ Volume 47, #2  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says:** I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy our fine February weather and maybe start or drive their T-Birds. We will resume our monthly meetings in March, so check the newsletter for the date and place. At March's meeting, we will start scheduling monthly events, and I invite all our members to come and submit their ideas and requests for an event. Sadly, the wife of our newsletter editor, Kayla Sanford, lost her battle with a lengthy medical illness and passed early February. Our condolences and prayers are with Jack.

*Martin Bierman, President*

50<sup>th</sup> annual Rocky  
Manginelli  
Memorial swap  
meet.  
Sunday, March 3,  
2024  
4100 No. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE

March Important  
Dates:  
10 – Daylight Saving Time  
17 – St. Patrick's Day  
24 – Palm Sunday  
31 – Easter Sunday

Next Meeting  
March 21, 2024,  
6 PM  
Track Side Bar & Grill  
13901 Guildford 7  
Waverly, NE



[www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org](http://www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org)  
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**Kayla Ann Sanford,  
January 5, 1941- February 1, 2024**

Kayla Ann Grueber Sanford was born in Deshler, Nebraska, on January 5, 1941, to Arthur W. and Roberta Henderson Grueber. She is the oldest of three children. She passed away peacefully on February 1, 2024, in Omaha, at the age of 83, surrounded by her family. Kayla attended Beatrice High School, where she participated in many school programs and activities while also working as an assistant to the town's pharmacist. She attended the University of Nebraska when her parents moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where she met her future husband, Jack E. Sanford. The couple married on February 16, 1962. They shared 62 beautiful years together. During Jack's 43 years of service with the Union Pacific Railroad, Kayla, and her family were blessed to call many different places across the country "home," enabling her to build beautiful relationships with dear friends. Kayla was an active member of Beta Sigma Phi since 1966 and cherished her association with her many sorority sisters. Kayla was known for her many talents, including her crafts and hobbies, which she was always willing to teach and share with others. She is preceded in death by her parents, her parents-in-law, and her son Scott Arthur, who died shortly after birth. She is survived by her four children: Sonja Rene Brown (Doug), Jack E. Sanford Jr. (Julie), Todd C. Sanford, and Heather Dawn Harriman (Shane); her brother Randy Dean Grueber (Beverly) and her sister Patty Freeman (Ray); in-laws Dick and Barbara Cable; nephews and nieces; 12 grandchildren: Chantle, Adam, James, Amanda, Jacquelyn, Anna, Krista, Hallie, Hannah, Ellie, Parker, and Emma; and 11 great-grandchildren. The family expresses their deep gratitude and thanks for the loving healthcare professionals who tended to Kayla during her illness. The family is planning to hold a celebration of Kayla's life in the spring when her favorite cherry blossoms are in bloom. Following the celebration services, she will be interred at Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



## Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club February 2024

*(no meeting in February)*

### **Bird Tech Talk**

By Martin Bierman



The Items pictured in January's Tech Talk were 1955-56 Mercury Station Wagon taillights. These were a common custom effect for 1955-56 Ford cars and T-Birds in the late 50's and 60's. They are now rare and, if found, usually have corroded and pitted metal housings and broken lenses. I bought these from an owner who had re-chromed the housings, and the plastic lenses were in excellent original shape. New lenses and rubber gaskets are also being reproduced. I replaced the light sockets and pigtail wires with new ones. The metal housings bolt onto the T-Bird body in place of the original tail and backup lights and require no bodywork. Some T-Bird owners love these while others do not; see what you think.





## Door Lock Installation

By Jim Delton – CTCI Tech. Group

When I installed the new lock cylinders, I had the door panel off and could see both sides. As I put the lock cylinder through the hole, it had the little piece on the back with the spring around it. I think the post went into something with a hole that acted as an anchor, and the "lever" part of the piece went into a "fork" or something that got moved up and down to move the lock/unlock blocker. When you have it, all positioned, you slide the retainer clip that goes through the side of the door under the weatherstripping in place, and it retains the lock cylinder, and all the parts stay in place. You can see in the photo the old part attached to the old lock cylinder and the new shiny part in the top left of the picture. You can also see they don't have quite the same dimensions; the new one has a longer but thinner post. As a result, if memory serves, the new one flopped around in the hole so much that the lever would fall out of the fork, so I used the old part.



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Mary Lou and Martin Bierman attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Val-a-Czech dinner at the Hidden Valley Golf Course, Lincoln, Nebraska on February 3. This event is a celebration of Valentine's Day and Czech heritage and has been hosted by club members Jim Lantz and Jeff Hoffman the last several years. The celebration featured a buffet dinner of various Czech foods, a trivia game about past Czech parties, and several songs in the Czech language. The Biermans visited at dinner with Doris Wiens, wife of late club member Marv Wiens. At age 87 she is doing very well and has several delightful stories of her and Marv's life. Pictured left to right is Mary Lou Bierman, Jeff Hoffman, Doris Wiens, Jim Lantz and Martin Bierman.



## New Member Joel Hutchins

I am 82 and have lived at Pacific Springs Village since 01-2020. My wife moved here with me, but she died on 04-01-22. Since then, I have bought a 1957, starmist blue Thunderbird, which I have wanted since I was 15. Currently, I am installing an A/C system and awaiting the installation of a soft top and exhaust system, then to Montana to visit friends. His dad had a T bird, and he, the friend, let me drive it the night we graduated from High School.

I also have a 1949 MG TC, a 1972 MGB GT, a 1970 E Type, a 1965 Mustang, and the T-Bird, enough for one man. I practiced medicine in Gordon for 36 years, then moved to Omaha two years after retiring because of the health reasons of my wife and myself in 2011.

The car has a 3-speed with OD, which the first owner put in the car; the automatic is sitting in my garage.

My wife and I have two children; our son is a gastroenterologist in Omaha, and our daughter is an endocrinologist in Omaha. They each have three children.

Joel Hutchins



## The 1% Club

Some of you may not be in this category, but read this anyway because it mentions that people in this group are also listed as part of "THE GREATEST GENERATION" and NEVER again will there be stories like those that came and went in those years.

**99% OF THOSE BORN BETWEEN 1930 AND 1946 WORLDWIDE ARE NOW DEAD!**

If you were born in this time span, you are one of the rare surviving one-percenters of this special group.

Their ages range between 78 and 94 years old, a 16-year age span.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE 1% ERS:**

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.

You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years. You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.

You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.

You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.

Discipline was enforced by parents and teachers.

You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.

With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside." There was no Little League.

There was no city playground for kids.

The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.

We got a "black-and-white" TV in the late 40s that had 3 stations and no remote.

Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).

Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked. Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage,

and changing the ribbon. 'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults, and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening (your dad would give you the comic pages when he read the news).

New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were two lanes (no interstates).

You went downtown to shop. You walked to school.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.

They were glad you played by yourselves. They were busy discovering the postwar world.

You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves.

You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.

Polio was still acrippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.

You came of age in the '50s and '60s.

You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.

World War 2 was over, and the Cold War, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.

You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.

More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people in the world who were born in this special 16-year time span.

## You are a 1% 'er'!







## MARCH 10, 2024

According to Farmers' Almanac, Daylight Saving Time (DSL) was first observed in the United States in 1918. It has been modified a bit but is still in effect in most states except Hawaii and most of Arizona. There have been recent moves both at the national and state level to get away from DSL. One of the barriers seems to be that some people want to go back to standard time exclusively, and some want to keep DSL year-round.

## 2024 Calendar of Events

**March 3 – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet - Lancaster Event Center**

**March 21 – Business Meeting - Track Side Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford 7 – Waverly, NE 6:00 PM**

**May 11 - Skills and Grills – Car – Truck – Tractor Show – Gretna High School – Register 9-11 am**

**August 7 - 11– VTCI 2024 International Convention – Grand Rapids Airport, MI**

**August 20 -25 – 2024 International Concours Convention – Des Moines, IA**



## The following event will be discussed at our March business meeting.

*Invitation for NE & IA T-Bird clubs From Jeff Hoffman <jimljeffh@gmail.com>*

*Marty and Bob, after several years of bouncing this idea around, I proposed to the Hardin County Cruisers steering*

*committee yesterday about organizing a joint October weekend event with both of the T-Bird clubs. The committee approved it, so I'm inviting both clubs to join us for a riverboat cruise up the Iowa River to view the fall colors and cruise around Hardin County to experience some historical sites.*

*Attached is a tentative agenda for the 2nd or 3rd weekend in October. Hardin County is about 1½ hours northeast of Des Moines via I-35 and Hwy 175.*

*Please let me know if your clubs want to join our local car club for this event. Thanks!*

*Best regards, Jeff*

### **Hardin County Cruisers Club Activity – approved by HCC Steering Committee 02/18/24**

Weekend cruise and events in Hardin County, IA

Invited - Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club and Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

2nd or 3rd Weekend in October

All times are tentative.

Saturday

10:30 am - Meet & Greet at the Soda Fountain, New Providence

Brunch + Rice Krispies\*

Orientation to the historical aspects of the day's cruise

Noon - Cruise through Hubbard via S57/D65/Hwy65 to Eldora via Hwys 65/175

NP Main Streets cruise

Honey Creek Church

Options in Hubbard Below Farm & Auto Restoration

Hubbard FD – restored fire truck

J&T trucking facility

Others?

1:30 pm – Car-themed movie at The Grand

3:15 pm – Cruise to Iowa Falls

Pine Lake

Sac and Fox overlook

Greenbelt drive

4:00 pm – Scenic City Empress Riverboat cruise on the Iowa River

6:00 pm – Return cruise to Eldora

6:30 pm – Dinner at the Eldora Social Club

Sunday

9:00 – Brunch at Jim & Jeff's house in Eldora\*

Accommodations – Eldora has 5 B&Bs with 14 bedrooms, Pine Lake State Park has 4 cabins, and Iowa Falls has 3 B&Bs with eight bedrooms.

\*Jim & Jeff will provide brunches on Saturday and Sunday





## Just a little humor!

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands.  
 He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.  
 The Pastor told him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"  
 My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."  
 The Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"  
 He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

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**MANY YEARS AGO, I WAS A RETAIL MANAGER IN AN AUTO PARTS STORE. The proprietor was a with me behind the counter one day when a young lad came in and asked for a set of Champion spark plugs for his vintage car.**

**"No problem," my boss replied. He looked up the type in the spark plug booklet, pulled a box from the shelf, and placed it on the counter.**

**"That will be \$24, please."**

**The lad looked at the plugs, looked at my boss, and exclaimed, "\$24! They're only \$20 a set at Parts Pro, but they're out of stock!"**

**Without missing a beat, my boss replied, "Really? Ours are only \$18 a set when we're out of stock."**

### Member Birthday March

Roger Keepers, Jr. - 17

Sandy Gough - 19

Cathy McGowan – 24

Bob Young – 24

Diane Young - 28

If you want to be recognized, please send your birthdate to [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net).

### *Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club*

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"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. 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, LaVista, NE 68128.

