

# Thunder Words



Happy  
Thanksgiving

November 2024 ~ Volume 47, #11  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says:** What a wonderful day October 12 was! The weather was perfect for a car tour, and **Jeff Hoffman** and **Jim Lantz** hosted a grand tour of Hardin County, Iowa. The tour was complete with interesting stops, food, and great scenery. We learned about the Quaker settlers, lavender farming, and the history of Iowa Falls. Thanks again, **Jeff** and **Jim**, for a wonderful event. Our next gathering will be at the Saltgrass Steak House in Omaha for our annual Friendsgiving Dinner on November 17. Be sure to contact **John Moore** with your dinner selection and bring some gift cards for the Children's Home Christmas gifts.

*Martin Bierman, President*

Next Event  
Friendsgiving dinner  
November 17, 2024,  
2:30 PM  
Saltgrass Steak House  
301 North 175 Street  
Omaha, NE 68118

November Dates:  
3 – Daylight Saving  
5 – Election Day  
11 – Veterans Day  
15 – Beaver Moon  
17 – Friendsgiving Dinner  
28 – Thanksgiving Day

Next Meeting  
November 17, 2024,  
2:30 PM  
Friendsgiving Dinner  
Saltgrass Steak House  
301 North 175 St.  
Omaha, NE 68118



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## Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club October 2024

**President Martin Bierman** called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. at the Coffee Kettle Cafe in Omaha, NE. In attendance were **Martin and Mary Lou Bierman, Tom Woodman, Jack Sanford, Bob Young, John Moore, Bob McGowan, Jerry and Marsha McGill**, and yours truly, your humble secretary **Quentin Moeller**.

The September minutes were approved by a motion made by **Bob Young** with a second by **John**. There was **no treasurer's report**.

**Old Business:** The Hickman Hay Days Car Show awards were given out. **Tom** received the first-place award, and **Jack** received the second-place award.

**Marty** gave a report on the Hardin County Cruise. Everyone had a fine time. **Jeff** and **Jim** were commended for their involvement in setting up this event.

This year, the November Friendsgiving event will be on November 17th and will be a mid-afternoon affair. Make sure you e-mail **John Moore** with your participation numbers. Please check your newsletter for exact details on this fun event.

December will be a business meeting only with no event planned.

**New Business:** Officer nominations for the coming year were discussed. **Rob Kinsey** has agreed to run for President, **Marty** has agreed to run for Vice-president, and all others will remain the same, noting that **Jeff Brown** was not present and will be notified. Nominations were closed with a motion by **Bob** and a second by **Jack**.

### **Braggs:**

**Bob McGowan** had a successful experience with Seafoam and Amoco Ultimate Gas. Alice, his '56, is now running like a top.

**Marty** showed the plaque presented to him for providing judges training at the convention.

**Jack** stopped for gas about an hour after leaving Iowa Falls on his way home from the Iowa Falls tour, and his car wouldn't start. It was a dead battery. After a jump start, he was able to drive home without shutting the car off. It turned out to be a loose generator belt.

**Tom** was at his son's place in Pennsylvania and took three cars to a car show. Each car took home a trophy. Well done, **Tom**.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS. A motion to adjourn was made by **Jack**, with a second by **John**. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Quentin Moeller, Secretary**

### **Additional Information:**

The Club will again be donating to the Food Banks

Don't forget your children's Christmas gift cards, preferably in \$10 to \$25 quantities. Last year, we donated over \$500.

Membership dues are due. See the form on the newsletter's page 11.





# Condolences



## Frederick "Rick" Gough



On September 25, 2024, Frederick "Rick" Melvin Gough passed surrounded by loved ones at age 76. Rick had recently embarked on a tumultuous road to recovery following a sudden heart attack in July. He was scheduled for a valve replacement in October, but Rick was called to the Kingdom of Heaven early, earning his wings in September. On Thursday, August 5, 1948, Melvin and Valena Gough were blessed with the birth of their first child, Frederick Melvin Gough. Born in Indianapolis and raised in Brownsburg, Indiana, Rick attended Brownsburg High School before pursuing a degree in education at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Rick enlisted in the United States National Guard. Rick was honorably discharged after eight years of dedicated service. Rick started his first job as chief clerk for Indianapolis, Indiana's Illinois Central Railroad, kickstarting a career in railroad transportation that would span four decades and ten cities. In 1969, a mutual friend introduced Rick to Sandra Sue Shapiro, a Butler University student. Their connection was instant and soon blossomed into an ardent love. They were married at Nelson Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 3, 1971. Over the next ten years, Rick and Sandy were blessed with the births of their three children, Tamara "Tami" Michalski, Heidi Wilhelm, and Christopher "Kit" Gough. Rick was always there to support his children and surround them with love. In 1978, Rick began a career at Union Pacific Railroad, where he spent more than thirty years before retiring as the Senior Business Director in 2010. As a retiree, Rick enjoyed shooting traps, traveling, birding, eating ice cream, and spending time with his family, particularly his grandchildren. With the birth of his youngest grandchild in 2013, Rick was elated to spend the early years of his retirement watching Oliver grow. Rick was also a dedicated attendee of his grandchildren's various sporting events, theatrical performances, speech meets, and concerts. He was their most avid fan. In 2011, Rick was shocked to receive a breast cancer diagnosis from his dermatologist. Rick took his diagnosis in stride, using his experience as an opportunity to educate others about the risk of breast cancer in men, working with Oncology Associates, P.C. to create content for their Medical Minutes series. Rick was delighted to participate in a catwalk alongside fellow cancer survivors during the first night of Omaha Fashion Week 2013. He was also the first male breast cancer survivor featured in the annual Project Pink'd, Inc. Exposed calendar. In his own words, "If there are any men in your life, love them enough to explain to them that men can get breast cancer too." Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Valena and Melvin Gough; his sister, Roxanne Gough Vargo; his in-laws, Jaqueline and Irving I. Shapiro; and his brother-in-law, Irving J. Shapiro. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Gough; children, Tami (Brian) Michalski, Heidi (Michael) Wilhelm, and Kit (Julie) Gough; grandchildren, Kathryn (Parker), Jason (Gabrielle), Ethan (Bailey), Nicole (Braxton), Alex (Miranda), Jesse, and Oliver; great-grandchild Adalyn; sister-in-law, Wendy Kaye; brother-in-law, Joseph Kaye; nephews, Randy (Ashley), Anthony (Sidra), and Jason (Amanda); and canine companions, Teddy and Darby. Countless other family members and dear friends will also feel the effects of this loss. Rick's beloved wife and children will host a celebration of life at The Players Club in Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday, October 25th, 2024, at 11:00 AM. We gather not to grieve our loss but to celebrate all the large and small moments we were fortunate enough to bask in the warm glow of Rick's love and joyful spirit.

Rick and Sandy were long-term members of the Nebraskaland T-Bird Club. Rick had just recently sold his T-Bird.



# TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

## Battery Shut Off Switch



Installing a battery shut-off switch is a safety item that prevents a wiring fire and is also a security device preventing theft. Moreover, it prevents battery drain by the clock when the car is sitting for a long time. The most popular shut-off is pictured in photo 1 and is placed on the battery negative post (photo 2). The green knob disconnects the battery when loosened. Another popular shut-off is a lever or “knife” device. Most of the green knob varieties are plated a brass color and are not truly brass. The problem arises when the switch becomes corroded under the green knob. This results in a no-start situation due to a completely dead-appearing battery. One should suspect the green knob shut off if the no-start suddenly appears and if no electrical items work (i.e., horn, starter solenoid, etc.) This suddenly happened to one of our club members on a recent tour when he parked, and the car would not start later and was electrically dead. Twisting the green knob on and off several times temporarily cured the problem, and a more thorough examination and cleaning of the contacts was advised.





# MEMBER NEWS



**Marty and Mary Lou's grandson Jackson, with the Goldenrod Yellow 1955 T-Bird taken as part of his senior high school pictures.**



**New Providence, IA  
Adventures in Hardin County  
A well-planned and executed Auto Event.  
Thanks, Jeff and Jim, for a fun weekend.**



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# SAVE THE DATE

## JOINT THUNDERBIRD CLUB EVENT

***“Stronger Together ‘55-‘05 in ‘25, Driving The Past Into The Future”***



Don't Miss the  
Mega-Event of  
the year

**HOTEL: EMBASSY SUITES – N.GRAPEVINE, TEXAS**

Tours, speakers,  
separate VTCI and  
CTCI Concours  
Judging

**SEPTEMBER 09-13, 2025**

**HOSTED BY**



**CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL (CTCI) and  
VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL (VTCI)**



## 2024 – 2025 Calendar of Events

- November 17** – Friendsgiving Dinner – Mark your calendar. Details in the November Newsletter. P. 7
- December 19** – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside Bar & Grill 1309 Guildford #7 – Waverly, NE
- March 2** – 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center -Lincoln (same location, new name – 4100 North 84<sup>th</sup> Street)



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# Friendsgiving Party

Hosts John and Michelle Moore

November 17, 2024, 2:30 PM

Saltgrass Steak House

301 North 175<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68118



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We will order from the attached Guadalupe Menu. The cost is \$32 + tax + gratuity. Everyone will pay their own checks. Please note that an 18% gratuity will be applied to everyone's checks.

By agreeing to this, we can use their room free of charge for our gathering. At the top of the menu is an explanation for what is included, which is called "Plated Group Menu Selections."

Should you have any questions, please call or email John. Otherwise, just provide John with your food order at the contact listed below.

RSVP to John Moore by November 6<sup>th</sup>.

[jmj4280@gmail.com](mailto:jmj4280@gmail.com) or 402-289-7847

Our gathering will take place in their Fireplace Room. There will be a cash bar available along with club-provided appetizers. At the same time, we will visit from 2:30 p.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m. (Tea, sodas, and water are also available and built into our menu cost.) We will then have some brief words from Marty and announce new officers for 2025. After this, Jack will give a slide presentation reviewing our club's great 2023 - 2024 years. At 4 p.m., our food will be served.

Please do not hesitate to contact John with any questions. The Saltgrass has been great to work with and wants us to have an incredible meal and a wonderful, relaxing afternoon. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on November 17th! John Moore - 402-289-7847 - [jmj4280@gmail.com](mailto:jmj4280@gmail.com)





# DINNER SELECTIONS

## PLATED GROUP MENU SELECTIONS

Group menu selections include your choice of entrées, one side dish, either a Dinner Salad, Caesar Salad or cup of Soup, and your choice of non-alcoholic beverage.\* Signature sides, signature salads, appetizers and desserts can be added for a nominal charge.

## GUADALUPE MENU \$32 PER GUEST

### GULF COAST STEAK & SHRIMP\* (770-990 cal)

8 oz. Center-Cut Top Sirloin, choice of grilled or fried shrimp.

### CHICKEN LAREDO (930 cal)

Jack cheese, avocado, grilled onions, tomatoes, poblano peppers, green onions, cilantro, feta cheese.

### NEW YORK STRIP\* (820 cal)

12 oz.

### BBQ PORK RIBS (1110 cal)

Slow-cooked & "fall-of-the-bone"

### ATLANTIC SALMON\* (480 cal)

Simply grilled to perfection.

## ENTRÉE ENHANCEMENTS

Can be added for a nominal charge.

### SMOTHER YOUR STEAK (190 cal)

Garlic butter, sautéed mushrooms, grilled onions.

### GRILLED OR FRIED SHRIMP (230 cal)

### SAUTEÉD MUSHROOMS & GRILLED ONIONS FOR SHARING (220 cal)

(Serves 2)



## SIDE CHOICES

**GARLIC MASHED POTATOES** (320 cal)

**HERB RICE** (480 cal)

**FLASHED FRIED GREEN BEANS** (90 cal)

**FRENCH FRIES** (370 cal)

**SWEET POTATO FRIES** (380 cal)

**BROCCOLI** (120 cal)

## SIGNATURE SIDES

\$2.99 per person

**BAKED POTATO** (310-660 cal)

**SMOKED MACARONI & CHEESE** (440 cal)

## SIGNATURE SALADS

\$4.49 per person

**WEDGE SALAD** (450 cal)

\*Non-Alcoholic beverages include Iced Tea, Flavored Iced Tea, Soda & Water. Menu items & prices may vary by location.

2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice, but calorie needs vary.  
A Suggested Gratuity of 15% - 20% is customary. The amount of gratuity is always discretionary.  
Specific items & prices may vary regionally. Items & Prices are subject to change.

SG\_GRP\_CORE\_0023



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**Plated Group Menu Selections**

Group menu selections include your choice of entrees, one side dish, either a Dinner Salad, Caesar Salad or cup of Soup, and your choice of non-alcoholic beverage. \*

Signature sides, signature salads, appetizers, and desserts can be added for a nominal charge.

\*Non-alcoholic beverages include iced Tea, Flavored Iced Tea, Soda & water. Menu items & prices may vary by location.

The fine print from the menu on page 9.

**Get your menu item to John  
by November 6, 2024.  
You don't want to miss this annual event.**







This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still a low of \$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**, Treasure, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128





# For Sale

## T-Bird Parts for Sale

Two Y-Block valve cover gaskets, one oil filter, and four slightly used spark plugs.

**\$10.00.**

**Contact Roger Maritz – 402-319-1946 (Omaha)**

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Properly working headlamps, taillamps, and brake lamps are essential for seeing and being seen on the road. The brake lamps must be checked periodically to ensure they light when braking.

### November fun fact:

November's full Moon is traditionally called the **Beaver Moon**. In the colonial era, this was the month to set one's beaver traps, before the swamps froze and beavers retired to their lodges, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs.

### Member Birthday November

**Quentin Moeller - 2**

**Marty Bierman – 5**

**Dick Heinke – 10**

**Nancy Schlessinger - 25**

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

### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516
Vice President	Robert Routh - 402-423-5249
Treasurer	Jeff Brown - 402-572-1995
Secretary	Quentin Moeller – 303-204-1761
CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516
Newsletter	Jack Sanford - 402-392-1350
Historian	Bob McGowan - 402-334-2593
Social Media	John La Duke - 701-330-7908
Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367

"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.

