

Thunder Words



October 2025 ~ Volume 48, #10
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



Pres Says:

I'm on the road again.
Working out of town.
Hope to see you at our
next business meeting.
Rob



Lincoln, NE
Loess Hills Tour
October 19, 2025
1:30 pm (see page 8)

2025 Meeting Dates:
Waverly – October 16
Lincoln – November 22
Omaha – December 18

Next meeting
October 16, 6 pm–
Trackside Bar & Grill
Waverly, NE



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club September 2025

President **Rob Kinsey** and Vice President **Martin Bierman** were ill. Those in attendance were **Jeff Brown**, **Joel Hutchins**, and **Jack Sanford**.

There was no quorum; therefore, the meeting did not take place. We did, however, enjoy a meal and a friendly conversation.

Respectively reported by **Jack Sanford**, Acting Secretary.



Joel

Jack

Jeff



July 2021, Lincoln, NE

TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman



Several months ago, a club member inquired about factory inspection stamp placement and locations on the '55-'57 T-Bird. Inspection stamps were placed by the factory after certain components were completed e.g. glass, trim, and paint. They were stamped in various locations, mainly in the engine compartment and on the firewall. One of the stamps was a date stamp placed near the heater box. The inspection stamps were done in yellow ink and varied in quality and exact location and orientation. All the T-Bird vendors offer decals of the inspection stamps; however, these do not have the true appearance of an ink stamp. Kits containing all the necessary stamps have been available in the past. Club member **Phil Brown** and I obtained a complete stamp kit some years ago and stamped all our restorations and some of the club members' cars. The kit was later loaned to another club member and sadly never returned. During one of the CTCI conventions years ago, a vendor with a stamp kit and yellow ink was stamping the concours cars for a fee. Factory inspection stamps and paint marks are not considered in concours judging due to their variability. Below are some pictures of factory inspection stamps on a Torch Red 1955 T-Bird. The ink shows best on dark colors and not well on white and yellow.



MEMBER NEWS

- **The Joint CTCI/VTCI Thunderbird Convention September 9-14, 2025
Dallas (Grapevine), Texas.**

By Martin Bierman

Mary Lou and I left for Dallas in her '03 Mustang and arrived on Tuesday, September 9. We checked in at the Embassy Suites hotel and at the CTCI registration desk and met



Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club members Marsha Hash, Bob, and Diane Young for dinner. Wednesday was a free day, and we toured the National Medal of Honor Museum, located across from the Rangers' baseball park and close to the Cowboys' stadium. The museum has unique architecture and honors all the medal recipients since the medal was established in 1863. On Wednesday evening, I attended a presentation by two speakers on the consolidation of the Thunderbird hobby. Thursday morning, I helped with the judges'

training, and later, Mary Lou and I took a bus tour to the Bush presidential library on the SMU campus. I attended another speaker on Thursday night. The Concours was held on Friday, and 109



cars were on display on the show field. Sixty-seven cars were from CTCI and included 55-'57 T-Birds and Retro Birds. The VTCI cars consisted of Square Birds, Bullet Birds, Big Birds, and Retro Birds.

Amos and Justin Minter brought three 1957 E-Birds, which were fresh restorations. They were later all awarded gold medallions. On Friday



evening, we had a buffet dinner with entertainment by a country band with an outstanding violinist. The winners of the newsletter contest were announced that night, and our club's editor, Jack Sanford, won a gold award for our newsletter. Saturday offered bus tours to Dallas Ford dealer Sam Pack's car collection, which had 160 cars on display, most of which were trophy winners or one of a kind. He reportedly has a total of 440 vehicles in his collection. After the Pack tour, we stopped at Amos and Justin Minter's restoration and sales facility. Minter cars are renowned for their



excellent restorations and consistently fetch high dollars at Barrett-Jackson auctions. Saturday night, there was the awards banquet, which included pictures of the vehicles that won awards. The hotel did an excellent job of hosting the banquet and all aspects of the



convention. Approximately 330 registrants attended this convention. The concept of a joint club convention was well received, and plans are being made for a similar convention in Flagstaff, Arizona, next September.



CTCI UPDATES

Member Renewals: Garrett Shropshire presented membership renewals through the end of 2024. Last year (12/31/2024), we ended up with 3,601 active members. Between January and August of 2025, we gained 112 New Members. In addition, we gained 16 members who returned to CTCI from prior years (before 2024). As of 8/30/2025, we are now at 3,183 active members. We are nearing the end of the last “follow-up” Renewal Cycle. At this point, we have 496 Members who have not renewed. Of that total, we have only received 61 notices of dropouts.

Co-Sharing of Membership: Garrett praised many of the chapters that have already sent in their chapter membership rosters. This co-marketing effort is to persuade all Non-CTCI members, part of a chapter, to join the membership of CTCI. We have already reached out to over 200 prospects who are current members of a chapter.

Cost Saving Ideas: We continue to include savings from the Early Bird changes, Storage changes, credit card processing, and reduced Office hours. We are excited by positive operating statements. At this point, we are continuing to show better than our financial plan.

Office Activity: Garrett reported on Invoice and Merchandise sales. For 2025, CTCI has had over \$8,797.95 in Merchandise Sales, which is slightly less than last year. In addition, 31 requests have been made for factory invoices.

2025 Joint Thunderbird Convention Preliminary Report: Brian Carron provided an initial update on the 2025 Convention (Grapevine, TX) that just wrapped up. The Joint Convention had 336 registrants and 109 cars on the “show field.” There were 61 “first timers,” with participation from 28 states as well as Sweden. Brian also mentioned that we received donations from 16 chapters of both VTCl and CTCI. In addition to the many chapters, we received tremendous support from our vendors, sponsors, advertisers, and volunteers.

Future Considerations for Joint Thunderbird Events: President Bob Bly, who, along with Brian Carron, is one of CTCI’s representatives to The Thunderbird Owners Alliance, reported on the Joint activities. Bob stated that we are proud to partner in the Joint Convention (VTCl & CTCI) that took place last weekend in Grapevine, TX. Our many thanks go to Brian Carron for his leadership in bringing the Convention to fruition. Overall, the Joint Convention was well received by both clubs, and while there are still a few items to iron out, the Joint Convention was a positive experience for most of the participants.

To expand those efforts, we also invited Bart Bartasavich (President of ITC) to join VTCl and CTCI on a Zoom call to continue our discussions on future joint events. Unfortunately, Bart was unable to participate. There is genuine interest within both CTCI and VTCl members to expand this partnership, and we are working on future events with or without ITC involvement. We have left an open invitation for Bart (and ITC) to be included in future discussions. In the meantime, we are moving forward with VTCl on upcoming activities.

New Format for Future Conventions and Shows: The Board continued their discussions on how to improve future CTCI Conventions. The Board is looking at different models for future conventions that includes adjusting “Convention – Judging – Member Meeting” format. More information will be forthcoming.

Election Schedule for Election of 2026 Board (Balance of Schedule):

Schedule for Election of 2026 Board:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
9/20.....	Candidate Resumes are posted to the CTCI website
10/10.....	Candidate Resumes are sent to all members via “Constant Contact – Blast”
10/16.....	Electronic Ballots are distributed via “Opa-Vote” – Election Open
10/28.....	4:00 PM (Central) Election will be closed.
10/29.....	Election will be verified and counts presented to CTCI Board President
11/15.....	Election results will be presented and documented at CTCI Board meeting
11/15.....	Individual candidates will be contacted as to the final result of the candidate’s election
11/15.....	Election results will be posted and sent to all members in a Blast (Highlights)

The next Board meeting is set for November 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM Central

On Behalf of the Board, **Bob Bly, President**



2025 Calendar of Events

October 12 – Bob Young’s BBQ at Desota, IA – 1:00 PM (See details at the bottom of this page)

October 16 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM - Trackside Bar & Grill 1309 Guildford #7 – Waverly, NE

October 19 – A Loess Hills Tour – 1:30 pm start – Highway 92, Casey’s 19900 Virginia Hills Rd, Council Bluffs

November 22 – Friendsgiving Dinner – Firethorn – Lincoln, NE – Appetizers – 6 pm– Buffet 6:45/7:00

December 18 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Coffee Kettle Café, 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr., Omaha, NE

**March 8 – 51st Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center - Lincoln
(same location, new name – 4100 North 84th Street)**



Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still only \$15 per year, probably the best deal in town.

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

Bob Young, president of the Hawkeye Club, has invited us to his October meeting.

Please RSVP Bob at either bobyoun@inbox.com or call 515-229-3870 by Oct. 7th.

The address is #5 Ellefson Dr., DeSoto, IA 50069. It is exit #110 on I-80, the Adel, DeSoto, Winterset exit.

Once you exit off I-80, head North on Hwy #169, proceed about 100 yards, and Ellefson Drive is the first turn to the East (right). You will see the cars in the “yard” on your left; the buildings are both yellow with green roofs. Please don’t park in the driveway of the larger building on the West side. I no longer own that, and he may be in and out of the building. We can park the Birds on the lawn in front of his building; there will be someone there to help you park.



NEBRASKALAND THUNDERBIRD CLUB 2025 FRIENDSGIVING DINNER PARTY

This year's annual Friendsgiving Dinner Party is being held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Lincoln's Firethorn Gold Course, 9301 Firethorn Lane. This will be the third time Jeff Hoffman and Jim Lantz have hosted us at the Firethorn Golf Course in recent years. We appreciate their participation and generosity.

A buffet meal will be the format this year, with the following menu:

- Appetizers:** Mexican layer dip
Pretzel bites
- Salad:** Caesar Salad
- Entrees:** Beef tenderloin with mushroom sauce
Chicken marsala
- Sides:** Green beans
Whipped potatoes
Dinner rolls
- Dessert:** Caramel brownies

Jeff and Jim have offered to add a fruit/veggie appetizer, as well as beer/wine.

Appetizers at 6:00 PM, buffet 6:45/7:00 PM

This year, The Club is paying \$15.00 for each meal. Your cost per meal is \$28.75. This includes tax and gratuity. This is all we ask of you: Checks should be made out to Jeff Hoffman and either brought to the dinner or mailed in advance to 24574 265th Street, New Providence, IA 50206.

Either way, reservations must be made by November 8th, which include the name(s) and the number of buffet meals. Reservations can be made by mailing Jeff at the address above, emailing jimljeffh@gmail.com, or texting 402-499-6063.

THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025.

Our Friendsgiving Dinner has replaced the traditional Christmas Dinner for the last three years. One of the traditions that carried over to the Friendsgiving Dinner was the giving of gift cards in amounts of \$10 to \$25 to the Nebraska Children's Home.

The Christmas gift cards are the children's home's preferred method of giving. We will collect gift cards at dinner. Thanks.



Fall Foliage Tour through the Loess Hills

October 19, 2025

Meet at Casey's - 1:30 PM

19900 Virginia Hills Road, Council Bluffs, IA – Highway 92

Hopefully, the foliage will be colorful.

In planning this tour, **Jeff Brown** identified a perfect location to witness the Loess soil.

We will visit Silver City, Glenwood, and Council Bluffs.

We only hope for fair weather to enhance our photo-ops.

The map below, although rough, will give you a sense of the tour.

We will cap off the tour with a stop at Doozies for ice cream.

Please RSVP to Jack at 402-578-3743 or jesanford@cox.net by October 18th if you plan to participate. If your Bird is not up to making the trip, bring your vehicle of choice.



TIP OF THE MONTH

On the Road

Stay focused: Avoid distractions like your phone, eating, or changing music.

Practice defensive driving: Assume other drivers might do something unpredictable and scan the road ahead for hazards.

Maintain a safe distance: Keep at least a three-second gap between your car and the one in front of you.

Use your signals: Give others notice when you are changing lanes or making a turn.

Be courteous: Allow other drivers to merge, which can improve traffic flow.



Halloween

Halloween, traditionally called "All Hallows' Eve," is celebrated on the evening before the Christian holy day of All Hallows' Day or All Saints' Day (November 1). Therefore, Halloween is always celebrated on October 31.

In England, holy people, saints, and others who were deeply revered were often referred to as "hallowed," hence the name "All Hallows' Day." The evening –or "e'en –before the feast became known as "All Hallows' Eve," or, even shorter, "Hallowe'en."



Member Birthdays October

Vicki Kinsey - 16

Phil Brown – 22

Diane Young – 28

Joe Hansen - 31

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

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President Rob Kinsey - 402-434-9053

Vice President Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516

Treasurer Jeff Brown - 402-572-1995

Secretary

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. 103rd Street, LaVista, NE 68128.

