

Thunder Words



April 2025 ~ Volume 48, #4
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Pres Says: Here's hoping everyone is looking forward to our first 2025 activity, a casual drive (with or without Bird) to Murdock and lunch/conversation to start the new year. Details are in the newsletter. We identified additional activities at the March meeting; however, we still have two to three months without a planned event. Bring suggestions. Our Friendsgiving dinner will be at Firethorn in Lincoln, thanks again to **Jim Lantz** for volunteering. He will firm up a date with Firethorn and let us know. We are looking for a new secretary, as **Quentin** moved to CO to be closer to family. He's already joined the local club in CO! Thanks, **Quentin**, for serving as our secretary for several years! Check out this month's newsletter, which outlines our discussions about 2025 activities. Don't forget to thank **Jack** for another outstanding job as our editor. He is, after all, quite young and still figuring it out. Don't, however, ask him to bring brownies! **Rob Kinsey, President**

Fellowship Lunch
April 19, 11:30 am
Murdock, NE (see page 7)

April Dates:
1 – April Fools' Day
18 – Good Friday

Next meeting April 17, 2025.
6 pm - Track Side Bar & Grill
Waverly, NE



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>

Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



March Meeting Minutes

President Rob Kinsey opened the meeting at 6:10 PM. Present were **Rob and Vickie Kinsey, Marty and Mary Lou Bierman, Dick and Diane Heinke, Jeff Brown, Clarence Johnson, Joel Hutchins, Jim Lantz, Tom Woodman, and Jack Sanford.**

A motion by **Jeff Brown** to accept the December meeting minutes as scribed in the January newsletter was seconded by **Marty Bierman.** The motion passed.

Jeff Brown gave the Treasurer's report. The Club now has 33 members. **Joel Hutchins** moved to donate to the Texas Club for the 2025 Joint Convention, which **Clarence Johnson** seconded. The motion passed. **Marty** added that District Five Regional Director **Jim McLaughlin** was opposed to the chapters donating to the convention, as the CTCI had plenty of money. **Jeff Brown** would determine the amount based on past convention donations. At this point, **Bierman, Hutchins, & Sanford** are heading to the convention.

Old Business:

Marty reported that the Nebraskaland Around the Avery article will appear in the next Early Bird Issue. He submitted the Chapter Report (a summary of the members) to the CTCI headquarters. They will use the lists to attract members. **Marty** explained the difference between CTCI and VTCI. CTCI was established around the small birds in 1955, 1956, and 1957. VTCI took on all Thunderbirds, including '55,'56, and '57. The Des Moines Convention had a profit of \$630.00. CTCI now has 3601 members, down from 4015. Overall, the club is down \$22,000. Most of this expense is for the Early Bird.

President Rob thanked **Marty** for his monthly Text Talk articles and **Jack Sanford** for his work on the newsletter.

New Business: Rob reported that **Bob McGowan's** birthday was today. **Rob** has scheduled the Murdock Bar and Grill for the April 19th Fellowship event. This is an annual event that will start at 11:30 AM. Murdock is the same distance from both Omaha and Lincoln. **Rob** and **Jack** dined at the establishment in September. It is now under new management and has undergone a remodel. See a map and directions in April's newsletter (page 7). As a reminder, you do not have to drive your T-Bird. For whatever reason, show up in the vehicle of your choice.

May 18th is Thunderbird Appreciation Day. We will use **Rob's** postponed tour of Lincoln and have lunch at the Chicken Restaurant. See the map and directions in the 2025 April and May Newsletters.

The Wahoo Sid Dillion Car Show in June is tentatively set for our June event. The date and time are to be determined.

Marty will hold a Tech session in July. The date and time are to be determined.

2025 is Lincoln's turn for the Friendsgiving Party in November. **Jim Lantz** offered to look into holding it at the Firethorn Golf Club. **Jim** and **Jeff Hoffman** hosted the Friendsgiving Party in 2021 at the same location.

Brags: Tom brought a 1957 air duct to determine how a one-owner car could have had the air duct installed incorrectly at the factory. It was determined it might have been built on a Tuesday. **Tom** went on to explain how an air duct should have been secured. **Tom** showed the workings of a baffle and cautioned everyone about the importance of correct installation.

Marty and **Mary Lou's** grandson is in the Army. He is a first lieutenant in an Armored Division and works out of a tank. They will soon depart for training in Poland.

Jim reported that puppy training was going well so far, and there had only been one broken finger.

Joel wanted to report that his T-Bird is now running, but is still in the shop.

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



BIRD TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

“My fuel filter leaks.”



Question- A 1955 T-Bird owner has a fuel filter leak and wants to know how to fix it.

Answer- Fuel leaks at the fuel filter are common and may occur at the various brass fittings or at the glass bowl. A leak may occur at the brass fittings threaded into the top of the filter lid. These may be stopped by removing the flare nut and then tightening the threaded fitting further, or by removing the fitting and treating the threads with a gasoline-resistant sealer or Teflon tape. If using the latter, be sure not to cover the fitting opening with the tape. If the leak is at the flare nut to the threaded fitting junction, it may be fixed by tightening the flare nut further. Removing the flare nut and lightly oiling the threads will allow the nut to be tightened further without the threads galling. The seal occurs at the flare of the tubing against a cone surface in the opposite fitting. Sometimes a burr or defect in the flare of the tubing or the cone surface of the opposite fitting will prevent a good seal. Remove the flare fitting and inspect both surfaces to exclude this. Sealants and Teflon tape cannot be used to seal a flare fitting since the seal relies totally on the compression of the tubing flare to the conical surface of the opposite fitting. If a defect is found in either the flared tubing or the fitting's cone surface, replacement of the tubing or fitting will be necessary. Copper flare gaskets in the proper size are available and may be beneficial in stopping a leak at the flare-to-cone interface, although I have never personally used one. Always use a flare fitting wrench to avoid damaging the nut surface when tightening flare fittings.

Finally, the leak may be at the glass bowl to filter the top interface. The paper filter is held to the top with a gasket around the filter's top. This gasket also seals the glass bowl to the filter top. Remove the glass bowl by loosening the large nut on the bowl wire clamp, and remove the paper filter and gasket. Inspect the gasket to be sure it is not defective, the wrong size, or the wrong material. Replacing the gasket usually stops this form of leak. Some owners loosen the two top flare nuts and turn the filter assembly upside down to aid in inserting the filter and gasket, and then tighten the large wire clamp nut before returning the filter to its proper position. It is tempting to aggressively tighten this large nut to correct a leak at the glass bowl. However, overtightening will deform the filter top and worsen the leak. Never use a pliers or any tool to tighten this nut; only use your fingers. If a deformed or warped top is present from overtightening, the only fix for this is to replace the filter assembly.



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CTCI NEWS

Treasurer's Report: John is currently working on the first quarter financials and should have them ready for the next meeting. At this point it is too early in the renewal cycle to understand the membership renewal income. He stressed that CTCI needs to reduce overhead expenses and increase membership in order to breakeven for 2025.

Investment Fund Update: Garrett Shropshire reported that the investment account is greater than the original investment and greater than end-of-year 2024. The investment returns for the year of 2025 are over 5.5% annual yield rate. That will go down over time based upon Fed Treasury Rate changes. The Board previously approved moving the interest income from the account to the general fund, recruiting, & conventions. To date \$30,000 has been moved with an additional \$8,000 to be moved closer to the convention date. The investment plan is following the previously approved "U S Treasury Bond ladder".

Member Renewals: Garrett presented membership renewals through the end of 2024. Last year (12/31/2024), we had 3,601 active members. We are currently in the "Member Renewal Processing". Even so, we have already gained 26 new members. We are working with members to ensure that they can work through the renewal process and membership drive.

Cost Saving Ideas: We have already started to implement many of the "Board Approved" cost saving ideas. To date, all of The Early Bird savings suggested have been incorporated. We are currently estimating that CTCI will save over \$12,000 annually on these ideas related to The Early Bird. In addition, we have made progress on the following items:

- Getting rid of the excess office equipment (file cabinets, racks, and show cabinets)
- Eliminating all excess Early Birds and associated storage
- Crating all CTCI Museum Items
- Moving the CTCI Invoice Operations into the Museum space.
- Change CTCI Office to 4 days a week (Tuesday through Friday)
- Give new members a window sticker in lieu of dash plaque
- Eliminate printing the Concours Rules for new member packets
- Change credit card processor to reduce merchant fees

Office Activity: Garrett reported on Invoice and Merchandise sales. For 2025 CTCI has had over \$2,500 in Merchandise Sales and is higher than last year. In addition 8 requests have been made for factory invoices.

Committees for 2025: All of the CTCI Committees reported on their actions: Highlights include:

- Ideas to improve publicity for CTCI
- Providing materials for chapters to promote CTCI
- Changes in Newsletter contest to improve
- Verification that all OP&P procedures are in line with the CTCI ByLaws
- Change in Concours Rules for Unrestored 55-57 Thunderbirds

2025 Joint Thunderbird Convention Update: Brian Carron presented the Convention Update. The planned dates for the Convention are September 9 through 13, 2025. Brian updated the board on room night commitments and registrations to date. The convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel located in North Grapevine, Texas (Dallas – Fort Worth area). All members were reminded to get on the CTCI website and get the convention form or register online. [CLICK HERE](#) In addition all members are encouraged to go the Hotel website and reserve rooms.



Embassy Suites, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, North Grapevine, Texas 76051 (972) 724-2600, Option 1, Group Code: C 90E. Weblink:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/all-thunderbird-club-2025/>

The next Board meeting is set for May 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM Central.

On Behalf of the Board,
Bob Bly, President

Save the Date

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



Joint Thunderbird Convention
Stronger Together '55-'05 in '25
Thunderbird Club
Driving The Past Into The Future
CTCI - Grapevine, Texas 2025 - VTCI

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 VTCI and CTCI

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-5PM Convention Check-In Embassy and "Bird Bath" DIY
	9AM VTCI BOD/Gen Membership/VTCI Judge Training
	9AM CTCI 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 VTCI and CTCI Owners and Operators Meetings
	9AM VTCI and CTCI 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 VTCI/CTCI Concours Judges Lunch
Saturday Sept 13 th	6PM The All Thunderbird Party with Cash Bar, Recognition Awards and Entertainment
	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
Sunday Sept 14 th	1PM Tour concludes with stop at Minter'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 - -
	Bon Voyage

Here is important new information regarding the headquarters hotel for the 2025 Convention. The booking code for the group discount with the host hotel has changed. The new booking code to receive the group discount is **92R**

Also, there is a new link to make reservations online. <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/all-thunderbird-club-2/>

Why is this change happening?

Due to our efforts to obtain more convention rooms at the Embassy Suites, all NEW convention reservations must now be made at \$179 plus taxes/night. 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. Please tell your Thunderbird friends and acquaintances about this important new information.

Hope to see you there!



Member News

Quentin Moeller, formerly of Hickman, NE, and secretary of Nebraskaland's Club, has moved to Colorado. A secretary is needed. John Moore has been contacted regarding the position; however, the details have not been finalized. If anyone is interested in taking on an officer position, please step forward.

Fun Facts

Steam-powered cars, with external combustion engines, were produced in large numbers in the 1890s and early 1900s. The size of the boiler needed was one of many reasons for their decline.

“Controlled-access highways,” also known as freeways, carriageways, and expressways, began with the Long Island Motor Parkway in New York in 1908. The first dual freeway was built in 1924 between Milan and Varese, Italy.

The U.S. Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 marked the beginning of the Interstate Highway System. Although the system was initially conceived as a way to move military equipment across the country, it was immediately available for civilian use. Construction began on August 13, 1956, in St. Charles County, Missouri.

The origin of April Fools' Day is unknown, but theories suggest it dates back hundreds of years. Some theorize that the idea of April Fools' Day dates back to ancient Rome and a festival called Hilaria, held at the end of March, where people would dress up in disguises and mock or imitate others.

2025 Calendar of Events

April 17 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside Bar & Grill, 13901 Guildford 7, Waverly, NE

April 19 – Fellowship Meeting – 11:30 AM – Madsen Murdock Grill, 301 Nebraska St., Murdock, NE

May 10 – Skills & Grills Car Show – 9-11:30 am registration – Class Trophies 2 pm – Gretna High School

May 18 – Thunderbird Appreciation Day – Tour of Lincoln – Meet at 11 am, Country Inn & Suites – 5353 No. 27th



Directions to Murdock

From Lincoln to Murdock, take Highway 34 to Nebraska Highway 1.

Turn north or to the left on Highway 1. Highway 1 turns east at Bluff Road and goes east. Turn north onto 304th Street. Turn right onto Railroad Street. Turn left onto Nebraska Street; Madsen Murdock Bar Grill (MMG) is located at 301 Nebraska Street.

From Omaha to Murdock, several routes are available. I-80 to Exit 420 or Highway 63 south to Church Road and east to County Road 310. Head south on County Road 310 to Waverly Road or proceed a short distance onto Murdock Drive. Take either route into Murdock by turning right or west. Madsen Murdock Grill is located on Nebraska Street, which is south or to the left of either street leading into Murdock. Madsen Murdock Grill (MMG) is located at 301 Nebraska St. You can substitute US 6 for I-80. Travel south to Church Road. Same as above, once on Church Road.

From Omaha to Murdock using Exit 426 or Highway 66 east to County Road 310. Head south on County Road 310 to Waverly Road or proceed a short distance onto Murdock Drive. Take either route into Murdock by turning right or west. Madsen Murdock Grill is located on Nebraska Street, which is south or to the left of either street leading into Murdock. Madsen Murdock Grill (MMG) is located at 301 Nebraska St. You can substitute US 6 for I-80. Travel south to Highway 66. Turn east and follow the direction above.

From Omaha, using US Highway 50 south to Highway 1. Turn west on Highway 1 to 304th Street. Turn north onto 304th Street. Turn right onto Railroad Street. Turn left onto Nebraska Street; Madsen Murdock Bar Grill (MMG) is located at 301 Nebraska Street.

From Omaha, using US Highway 50 south to Highway 66. Turn right or west and travel on Highway 66 to County Road 310. Take County Road 310 south to Waverly Road or proceed a short distance onto Murdock Drive. Take either route into Murdock by turning right or west. Madsen Murdock Grill is located on Nebraska Street, which is south or to the left of either street leading into Murdock. Madsen Murdock Grill (MMG) is located at 301 Nebraska St.





March 2025 Business Meeting

(Diane was omitted from the photo.)

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
April
 Joe Failla - 7
 John Krecek – 12
 Crystal Swensen - 23
 If you want to be recognized,
 please send your birthdate to
jesanford@cox.net.

April 25:
 Arbor Day
 National DNA Day, National
 Mani-Pedi Day, National
 Plumbers Day, National Take
 Our Daughters and Sons to
 Work Day, National
 Telephone Day, National
 Zucchini Bread Day, School
 Bus Drivers’ Day, World
 Penguin Day

Get Ready for Summer:
 Check your coolant
 level and ensure that
 it’s topped up.

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

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Rob Kinsey	402-434-9053
Vice President	Martin Bierman	402-289-4516
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Secretary		
CTCI Rep	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-
 392-1350 – jesanford@cox.net

