

Thunder Words

August, 2018 ~ Volume 41, #8
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
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August Club Event and Meeting

Sunday, August 26 – 3:30 pm

The Rally Run for Fun begins at Cubby's Truck Stop, I-80, Exit 420 (Greenwood).

The 40 mile rally finishes at Camp Creek Thresher's Park, 17200 Bluff Road, Waverly, NE. Miniature train rides will be available.



6:00 pm - Dinner and club meeting. Trackside Bar & Grill, 13901 Guildford Street, Waverly.

Hosts: **Jack and Kayla Sanford**

Directions and map on p 5

Prez Says

Nebraskaland T-Bird Members,

Regretfully we had to cancel the July 28 meeting. There was a low member response so the meeting was terminated. Thanks to Ron and Marge for making the unused arrangements.

We had several items on the July agenda that I felt was important for you to know about. This letter will give you information on those items, so we can act on them at the August 26, 2018, meeting.



Under old business, the July Newsletter gave the calendar of events for the remainder of the year. In making my notes for the July meeting I found that the October meeting was only one week from the September meeting. Seeing as how we are not holding a November meeting I felt we should move the October meeting to a later date. Ted and Fran are hosting the October 6th meeting and perhaps they could change the date to either October 20 or 27th. If they are not at the August meeting, I'll contact them personally. Hopefully they will be at the August meeting.

Under new business we have three items:

Adopt a new club logo. Pictured are our present logo and our grille badge. The grille badge was recommended as being used for a club logo. If you have any ideas for a



new logo bring them to the next meeting and we will add it to the discussion.

Change the charter to include all

Thunderbirds. Marty explained our present policy as follows - "As a chapter of CTCL we primarily promote the 55-56-57 T-Birds but we are free to accept later Thunderbirds and the Retro-Birds. Some chapters have decided at their beginning of their charter to allow only the 55-57. I and others in our club have always felt it is better to be inclusive rather than exclusive in our membership. Some of our members



own both a 55-57 T-Bird and a later T-Bird or a Retro-Bird. Also, you do not need to own a T-Bird to be a member of CTCI or any Chapter.” Give this item some thought and voice your opinion at the next meeting.

Hagerty Touring Series. This is something new for our area, at least I never heard of it before. Information about the tour is on page 6. This does not have to be a club function but would be more fun if several members were able to participate. The attachment explains the three-day tour as starting in Grand Island and ending at North Platte. It didn’t say where the two nights stays were but did stress the tour travels through the Nebraska Sand Hills.

The August meeting will consist of another Rally Run and Fun event very similar to last year only in a different location. As advertised we are going to be treated to a train ride on a miniature train but before that we would like for you to meet at Cubby’s exit 420, I-80 and Highway 63, the Greenwood turn off. Cubby’s is in the Northwest corner of that intersection. There is a restaurant there called Hectors and if it is unbearably hot or raining that is where we will meet, otherwise we will be in the west parking lot. The rally is about 40 miles long and we will end up in Waverly, so if you need gas Cubby’s has 91 octane premium. Kayla has been working hard on this year’s objects so have your co-pilot bring his/her A-game. The meeting will be held in Waverly at the Trackside Café at 6:00 PM. They have a private room behind the keno parlor.

Hope to see you in August.

Jack Sanford, President



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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Brag Box

Congratulations to **Tom Woodman** for winning first place in the Unfinished category at the Ashland Stir-Up Days car show in July 22.



For Sale

After-market continental kit for 1956 Thunderbird. Call Tom Woodman at 402-464-0569 for details.



T-Bird Tech Talk

“Should I buy and use platinum spark plugs in my T-Bird?”

By **Martin Bierman**



Question - A 1957 T-Bird owner wants to know if it would be beneficial to use long life platinum spark plugs in his Y-Block.

Answer - Rob Siegel in Hagerty News writes “Long-life platinum-tipped plugs came along with high-energy ignition systems. Even if platinum plugs are a compatible part for a vintage car in the NAPA catalog, older analog ignition systems don’t generate enough voltage to take advantage of them, resulting in weak spark. Also, platinum plugs like to see the narrower range of operating parameters associated with a modern emissions-compliant, computer-controlled engine. The sloppier specifications of vintage cars, the wider boundaries between rich and lean, and the possibility of incorrect timing and



weak spark from a changing point gap create an environment where platinum plugs don’t work well. On a variety of vintage-car user forums, folks report that platinum plugs foul quickly. So unless you read a body of evidence to the contrary, stick with copper plugs on vintage cars with conventional ignition systems.”

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Meetings and Events

August ~ **Sunday, August 26.** 3:30 pm. Rally Run for Fun followed by miniature train rides, dinner and meeting. **Hosts: Jack and Kayla Sanford.**

September ~ Note change of date, location due to Huskers football game. **Thursday, September 27.** 6:00 pm. The Eatery, 2545 S 48th ST, Lincoln. **Hosts: Jim Lantz and Jeff Hoffman.**

October ~ [Leroy's Steakhouse](#), North Bend. Details to be announced. **Hosts: Ted Dimmitt and Fran Graser.**

December ~ **Holiday Dinner.** Details to be announced. **Hosts: Cathy and Bob McGowan.**



CTCI Event

Thunder ‘n Lightning in the Smokies. August 15 – 19. Knoxville Convention Center, Knoxville, TN. Sponsored by the [Smoky Mountain Classic Thunderbird Club](#). Convention chair is Bill Long at 865-458-0426.



Area Shows and Events Weekly/Monthly

Tuesdays ~ **Culvers**, 14th ST & Old Cheney, Lincoln.

Tuesdays [5 pm] ~ **Don and Millie's Cruise Night**, S 23rd ST & Cornhusker RD, Bellevue.

Wednesdays [5 - 9pm] ~ **Keystone Center**, 7803 Military AVE, Omaha.

Wednesdays [5 pm] ~ **Cruisers Bar and Grill Classic Car Show and Shine**, 8634 F ST, Omaha.



Fridays, ~ **Culvers**, N 27th ST, Lincoln.

2nd Thursday [6 – 9 pm] ~ **Sonic Drive-In**, 1910 Market LN, Norfolk.

4th Saturday [8 – noon] ~ Cars and Coffee, **Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed**, Lincoln.

August

August 5 [11 am – 3 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **Lancaster County Super Fair Show & Shine**. Lancaster County Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln.

August 5 [12 – 3 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **Fun in the Sun 27th Annual Car Show**. 17303 Evans ST, Omaha.

August 12 [12 – 3:30 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **6th Annual Valley Car Show**. Valley.

August 18 [12 – 4 pm (Register 8 am)] ~ **All Ford Show**. Frankfurt Square at 13th ST, Downtown, Columbus.

August 18 ~ **6th Annual Hallamfest All Vehicle Car Show**. Hallam.

August 19 ~ **34th Annual Car Show**. Stolley Park, Grand Island.

August 19 [10 am – 3 pm] ~ **Vintage Wheels at the Fort**. Fort Omaha, 5730 N 30th ST, Omaha.

September

September 7 – 9 ~ **Hagerty Goldenrod Rally**. Driving tour from Grand Island through Sand Hills, along the Niobrara, to North Platte. (See page 6 for details.)

Rally Run for Fun Directions and Maps

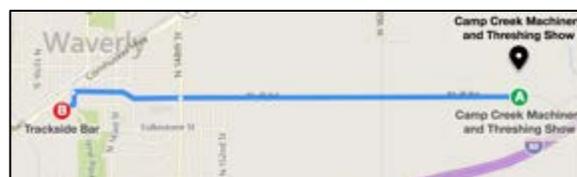
▪ On I-80, take the Greenwood Exit 420. Meet in the west parking lot of Cubby's Truck Stop. The station is in the northeast section of the interchange.



Premium gasoline is available. If escaping the heat is necessary, gathering in Hector's Restaurant is an option.

▪ Maps and details of the approximately 40 mile Rally Run for Fun will be provided at the start. *The winning car will receive a prize!*

▪ Following the Rally Run for Fun, a miniature train ride will be available for members at Camp Creek Thresher Park, 17200 Bluff Road, Waverly.



If joining the club at Thresher Park after the rally, take Hwy 6/Cornhusker Hwy to the northeast side of Waverly.

Turn south on 148th Street.

Go 0.4 mile on 148th Street to Bluff RD. Turn left/east.

Continue on Bluff Road for 1.9 miles to N 176th ST.

Turn left on 176th ST, continue for 350 ft.

Camp Creek Thresher Park is on the left.

▪ The 6 pm meeting and dinner at Trackside Bar & Grill, 13901 Guildford Street, Waverly, is only a few miles away.

From Camp Creek Thresher Park, turn right/west onto Bluff Road. Continue on Bluff Road for 2 miles.

Turn left onto N 143rd Street, then right onto Guildford Street.





You're invited to the inaugural Nebraska driving tour!

Join us for Hagerty Touring Series: Goldenrod Rally. Taking off from Grand Island on September 7th, this 3-day driving tour will roll through the Sand Hills, coast along the Niobrara River and cruise between National Forests and Wildlife Refuges. Don't miss your chance to meet fellow car enthusiasts, swap stories, and make new memories on the road.

Registration is \$750 per vehicle (up to two people) and includes:

- Accommodations at pre-selected hotels
- Three lunches and two dinners with the group
- Coordination of unique and engaging events along the route
- Keepsake lanyards and a beautifully designed route book

Hagerty Plus® member perk alert! Register now and enjoy a member-only price of \$700.

Pack up your fun-to-drive car and join us for what is sure to be a memory-making country-road stroll. [Space is limited; reserve your spot now.](#)

[LEARN MORE »](#)

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CTCI PRESIDENT REPORT



Fellow CTCI members,

As many of you know, 2018 started off as a challenging year for our Club. At the January Annual Meeting, Lin Somsak, our award winning, *Early Bird* editor for over 33 years informed the Board of her desire to retire by year's end. Additionally, we received a Physician's notice that our full-time office employee, Liz Gray, was on indefinite medical leave.

And, after the Annual Meeting, Managing Director Jack Gray announced that he would be resigning.

Quite a shake up to face all at once, which was exacerbated by the fact that currently all Officers and board Members are geographically remote from the CTCI office.

It should also be noted, as many of you already know, CTCI has not been operating profitably for the past several years.

The urgent nature of these issues and their combined gravity, led the Board to do an overall evaluation of our historical and current office operation. Our first priority was to find a new editor for the *Early Bird*, to ensure that our membership would continue to receive the fine publication that they have come to expect without interruption.

Next, we evaluated our office operations to determine if there were possible areas of savings that could lower our operating costs. We weighed the option of hiring new employees versus hiring contract services to perform some of the routine office functions as many other car clubs do. To do this evaluation, we obtained bids from two different companies that provide the services that we needed. Our research validated that significant savings could be had by using outside services to handle membership, accounting and some areas of customer service. Fortunately, our new Treasurer, Mr. John Kledis, who joined the Board last Fall, was on board to help us through this process.

As your elected Board, we have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the Club's assets and to operate the Club within the finances available and to not incur losses. That has been our goal throughout this process. And, with the new direction we have chosen, CTCI will once again operate profitably.

As many of you know, CTCI maintains its principle office in Signal Hill, California. The By-Laws of our Club mandate that the principle office must remain in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

After receiving bids and evaluating the options available to us, the Board has voted to contract with Attache International to handle the editorial function of the *Early Bird* and some of the office administrative functions. Attache International is an established company, located in Kansas City, Missouri, who has been providing these types of services to other car clubs and specific interest clubs for many years. The company is owned by Mr. Jim Spawn, who recently purchased a 1956 Classic Thunderbird and is a new member of CTCI. During the summer we will transition some of our office functions to them.

As a member of CTCI, it is our hope and intent that you will not see a change in service with this



change. Our principle office of record will remain at our present location as required by the By-Laws. But rather than sending you your membership dues reminder ourselves, it will be sent by Attache International, as a contract company operating on our behalf. This is similar to our hiring a CPA firm to prepare our taxes, or a payroll service to handle our payroll or a fulfillment house to fill and ship merchandise order. This will not be CTCI's office. It is the location of a supplier that we have chosen to use at this time.

As we move forward, be assured that the Board will make every effort to keep you informed. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me, or any of your Board members, with any questions that you may have.

As a Board, we are optimistic that in the very near future you will be able to see the positive financial impact of this change.

Sincerely,

Chuck Thompson
CTCI President - 2018
On behalf of your Board of Directors



REGION 5 DIRECTOR REPORT

To Region 5 Chapter Presidents/ Contacts,

As your Region 5 Director, I am writing to give you and your chapter members an update on the January 12th and 13th Board of Directors meeting at the CTCI office in Signal Hill, CA. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure and all Directors were in attendance. In the May-June 2018 issue of the Early Bird, CTCI Secretary Pocohantas Cole of San Antonio, TX will have the synopsis of the minutes of the open CTCI Board of Directors meeting. In the meantime, I will give you a brief update on our meeting.

Our Early Bird Editor, Lin Somsak, announced to the Board that she will be retiring at the end of this year. Lin has been Editor for thirty-three years and I know we will all miss her. She has done an outstanding job as editor of the Early Bird for CTCI and members. Joanne Seiler of New Jersey and Director of Region 1, will be replacing Lin. Joanne will be in training this year as the new Editor.

CTCI is still looking for an Electronic Editor to work with our Webmaster, Chris Seyler. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please contact our President, Chuck Thompson.

The President and Board recently received a letter of resignation from our Managing Director, Jack Gray. Jack was hired as a part time Managing Director in August 2012. At this time, Jack will be staying on for a reasonable time until a replacement is hired.

If you have not accessed the password protected CTCI roster on the website, please call the CTCI office and you will be given a password. Right now, the roster is updated online every three months. If you do not have access to the website, call the office and ask for a printed copy.

If you own a 56 or 57 Thunderbird and do not have the original invoice or a copy of the original invoice, they are now available from CTCI to CTCI members for \$30. The Board approved a motion to increase prices of invoices to \$50.00 effective May 1, 2018.



The Smoky Mountain Thunderbird Club will host this year's Classic Thunderbird Club International Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee on August 15th-19th. The Holiday Inn block of rooms are sold out for the convention but there are rooms available at the Crowne Plaza. Additional information is in the Early Bird. For convention registration forms and a list of events, go to www.CTCl.org or The Smoky Mountain Classic Thunderbird Club's website at www.SmokyMountainThunderbirds.org, There is so much to see and do in the Smoky Mountains.

Next year will be the CTCl Regional Convention. There is a potential Region 6 Convention to be held in Arizona in 2019. More details on that later this year. They are currently in the planning stage. If your chapter would like to host the Region 5 convention in 2019, please contact me and I will be happy to offer my help to your chapter.

Though I am Region 5 Director, I am also the Concours Rules and Convention Guidelines Chairperson. My position is to help you with any questions about hosting a convention.

A motion was made and approved by the Board that CTCl observe Thunderbird Appreciation Day the third weekend in May and waive the CTCl initiation fee for new members during the month of May. This will be the second year that CTCl, VTCl and ITC will celebrate an All Thunderbird Day. If there are members in your club who are not CTCl members, this is a good time for them to join CTCl. If your club is planning an event with your Thunderbirds in May, please send your pictures of the event to Lin Somsak, EarlyBird editor.

In every Early Bird issue, there is usually a listing of new members who have joined CTCl. You might check the list for those new CTCl members in your state living near your chapter. This is a good way to increase your chapter membership. Call the CTCl office for contact information of the new CTCl member that is in your state.

There was a discussion again on accepting Retro Birds in CTCl. Owners of Retro Birds can join CTCl but CTCl cannot offer them equal benefits such as judging their cars and restoration manuals/books. If a CTCl member wants to drive their Retro and participate on the Concours field with the Early Birds, there is a Display class called Special Interest and Other Collectible cars. This class will include all Thunderbirds except for the 1955-1957 Thunderbirds.

CTCl ended 2017 with approximately 5200 members. The Board is looking at ways to increase CTCl membership and we ask the chapters to encourage your non CTCl members to join. The following are the new CTCl officers for 2018:

President Chuck Thompson, Arizona
Vice President Chuck Witt, Tennessee
Secretary Pocahontas Cole, Texas
Treasurer John Kledis, North Carolina

The following chapters in Region 5 have not turned in their 2018 Chapter Report. I have attached a Chapter Report Form for you to fill out and send to the CTCl office. To those chapters who have turned in their reports, on behalf of CTCl, I thank you.

Colorado Classic Thunderbird Club
Wichita Classic Thunderbirds
Classic Thunderbird Club of St. Louis
Classic Thunderbird Club of Houston
Austin Thunderbird Owners
Big "D" Little Birds (mailed March 5th)
Heart of America
Classic Thunderbird of KC
Pikes Peak Early Bird, Inc
Lawton "LIL" Birds



If you have any questions, please contact me at the numbers below. I am always available to help any Region 5 chapter. At anytime you can request an email copy of the open Board meeting minutes by contacting me at the email address below. I hope to see you at the Board Meeting/General Membership at the CTCI convention in Knoxville next August. It should be a fun convention in the Smoky Mountains.

Sincerely,
Sandra Hood, CTCI Region 5 Director

