

Thunder Words



August 2022 ~ Volume 45, #8
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: We had a nice turnout for the Ashland car show July 17. Congratulations to several of our members who won first and second place awards in their classes. Our July 21 meeting was also well attended, and **Jack Sanford** gave a very informative discussion on fire extinguishers and showed two videotapes. He also discussed the new fire extinguisher, Element. Let's hope we never have to use them but if we do, we are now better informed. Several members are making the trip to Kansas City for the VTCl International Convention August 10. There is still time to register and join our caravan. See the information in this newsletter. **Mary Lou** and I will host the club at our house for a dinner party August 21 and we hope

to see many of you then.

Martin Bierman

Next Club Meeting
Track Side Cafe
Waverly, NE
6:00 PM, August 18, 2022

Next Club Event
Dinner Party at the Bierman's
5:00 PM, August 21, 2022
RSVP by August 17, 2022, to Marty
Bring a folding chair



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Minutes of the August Meeting July 2022

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. at the Apple Barrel Restaurant in Omaha, NE. There were 12 members present and one hopefully future member, **Phil Wieting**. **Phil** was brought to the meeting by our newest member **John Moore**. Worth mentioning, **Phil** now owns **Rob's** old 2004 Retro. Member **John Stekly** all the way from South Dakota was in town for an Edsel gathering and graced us with his presence. Glad to see you, **John**.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by **Tom Woodman** with a second by **Mary Lou Bierman**.

A **treasurer's report** was given by Treasurer **Jeff Brown**.

Old Business: A good time was had by all that attended the car show in Ashland. It was very hot and humid but some of us found an air conditioner for a few minutes. Check the newsletter for a recap of the show.

New Business: We have been invited to **Martin and Mary Lou Bierman's home** in Elkhorn, NE for our August activity. Word has it that the tree is gone and there will be a pool side dinner at 5:00 PM. Be sure to check the newsletter page 6 for details and bring a chair.

Also check the newsletter for meeting times and places for those who are attending the VTCI gathering in Kansas City Aug 10 thru 14.

The meeting was paused at this point to have a presentation and two videos on fire extinguishers. They were very informative and had a lot of information. It is very important to protect your investment with a product that will put out the fire and also not make matters worse by gumming up the works.

September and October activities are still in discussion.

The club will be looking into having our holiday activity, Friendsgiving, at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo, NE...check your newsletter for details.

Brags: Rob... Thanks to **Vicki** for the Nebraskaland birthday cake. Also, of note the 15th wedding anniversary of **Rob** and **Vicki**. **Rob** said the best 15 years of marriage, ever.

Quentin... Has placed first in class at the show in DeWitt, NE, and the show in Ashland.

Kayla... Our gray bird placed first at the Fremont Car Show.

Nebraskaland T-Birds bringin' in the gold.

Our next meeting will be August 18th at the Trackside bar and Grill in Waverly at 6:00 PM.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

A motion to adjourn was made by **Mary Lou Bierman** with a second by **Jack Sanford**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Moeller, Secretary

Left to right Kayla Sanford, John Stekly,

Rob Kinsey, Vicki Kinsey



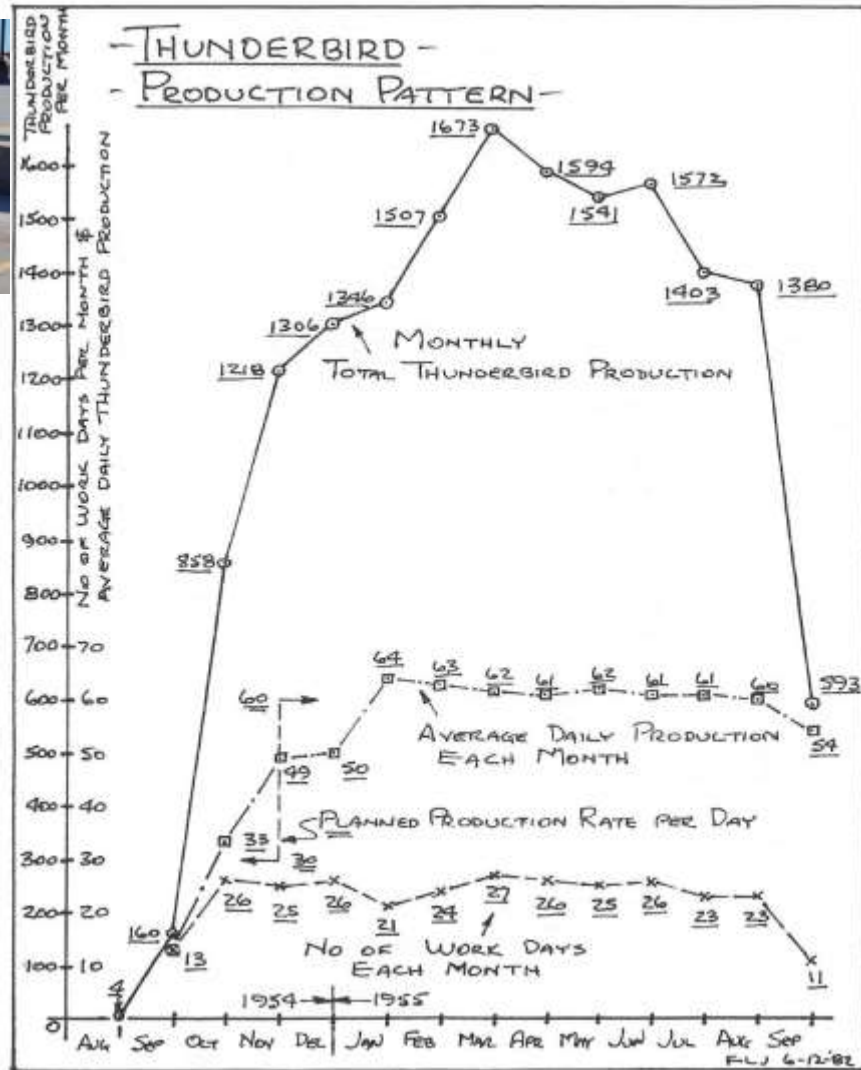


T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman

“How many 1955 T-Birds were produced?”

The production rate of the 1955 T-Bird is shown in the chart below (courtesy of the late Floyd Johnson, 1982). The middle line is the average daily production figure, and the top line is the total monthly figure. The chart shows that the average daily production rate slowly increased from September '54 to January of '55 when the daily average rate was sixty plus cars for most of the remainder of the production year. Data compiled by David Tulowitzky lists 16,155 T-Birds produced in 1955; 15,631 in 1956 and 21,380 in 1957 during which production ran into the 1958 car year. A total of 53,166 T-Birds were produced in the three years.



Highlights of CTCI Board Video Conference

July 15, 2022

- Welcome (again) to Chapter #67 Central Florida Classic Thunderbird Club. Following the procedures in the OP & P, the Board has approved the reactivation of this chapter located in The Villages, Florida. We are pleased and excited to have Chapter 67 along with its members rejoin CTCI. Many thanks go to **Ralph Cowell** for leading this reactivation effort.
- Treasurers report: **John Kledis** reported that through June 2022, CTCI showed a Function loss of \$6,555. Club equity remains strong.
- 2022 Budget – 6-month view: **John Kledis** reported that the 2022 Budget for the first 6 months had been updated. Currently the estimated Function loss is budgeted about \$18,000. John explained that the function loss was due to reduced membership rolls combined with increased printing costs for The Early Bird.
- The Board approved some language changes to the investment policy. As well as the language regarding the sale of the building. These changes were made to ensure that our sale and subsequent investments are correct and stay within Federal and State Tax Code. These changes will be reflected in the OP & P.
- **Brian Carron** presented the 2022 International Convention Update. **Brian** reported the website shows all of the current Sponsors, Donors, and Advertisers for the convention. **Brian** again thanked all of the Chapters who have already donated to the Convention and encouraged all chapters to participate and donate if possible. He also reported that we have the certificate of insurance for the event. In addition, he reported that there are two vendors who will provide Convention Logo items and “T”-shirts. The convention committee wanted to remind all of the members of the decision that CTCI or the Convention would not be directly involved with the sale of those items (nor involved in the financial transactions of them). Members are encouraged to purchase those “convention logo” items and all interactions would be between the member and the vendor. More information and links are provided on the CTCI Website and printed in The Early Bird.
- **Brian** also wanted to remind all members that there would be a CTCI Board Meeting, and a General Membership meeting held during the Convention. For those interested, the dates and times of those meetings are published on the website and printed in The Early Bird. Finally, the committee wanted to encourage all members to register and book hotel rooms for the 2022 Convention. THIS IS YOUR CONVENTION. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.
- **John Kledis** presented results of the GOOGLE group. He said the group test was very successful. The Board approved the continued use of the GOOGLE group. All members are encouraged to read more about the GOOGLE group in The Early Bird. Members who wish to join should refer to the earlier Blast or the article in July – August issue of The Early Bird.
- **Garrett Shropshire** reported on membership renewals: Last year (12/31/2021) we ended up with 4,722 active members. We closed July with 4,137 members, that calculates to 585



members pending renewal. We had 64 dropouts as of 6/30/2022. This continues to be a significant improvement over last year, but we will continue to work to improve this number. We are continuing to have members sign up for the 3-year option which demonstrates a strong commitment to CTCI.

- **Garrett** also reported that through the end of July, we already have signed up 150 new members and we have converted 16 of the 2021 test drivers. We again thank all of the Directors, Chapters, and individual members for their continued support in bringing in new members ... THANK YOU!!!
- The Board wanted to remind all members that a Bylaw change election will be held at the same time as the regular – general election in October. The language for the proposed Bylaw regarding Article V: Board of Directors (paragraph d - relating to tie elections) has been printed in the July-August issue of The Early Bird. The next board meeting is set for September 9, 2022.

On Behalf of the Board,

Brian Carron, President

Below please find a 2022 Convention Registration and a Membership Application Forms. CTCI headquarters has requested for your convenience that we include them in our next two newsletters.



2022-Convention-Registration-Form.pdf



CTCI-2021-Membership-Application-V1.pdf

Calendar of Events

August 10-14 – VTCI Convention Kansas City, MO
August 18 – Nebraskaland T-Bird Club Meeting – Track Side – Waverly
August 21 – Bierman Poolside Dinner Party 5:00 PM
September 15 – Nebraskaland T-Bird Club Meeting – Apple Barrell - Omaha
October 25-30 – CTCI Convention San Antonio, TX
November 20 – Friendsgiving Dinner – Farmer Brown's – Waterloo, NE
December _____



2022 VTCI International Convention

Meet in the Middle

August 10-14, 2022 – Kansas City, MO

Embassy Suites, Kansas City Airport

Wednesday is registration day with a free welcome party in the PM

Thursday has a half day bus tour to the World War I museum

Friday has an all-day bus tour to the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and Truman Presidential Library/Museum with a box lunch

Friday night has a pizza party

Saturday is the Concours car show with awards banquet that evening

Hotel rates are \$129 plus tax per night

Saturday Night Dinner is \$60 per person

The VTCI website, vintagehunderbirdclub.net, has the registration details and forms
It has just been advised that if you want to enter your T-Bird, you must join the VTCI.

This has to do with insurance. The remainder of 2022 is only \$25.00.

VTCI caravanning to Kansas City, August 10, 2022.

Those wishing to caravan to KC, please meet at

Sapp Bros., Nebraska City, NE.

at 12:00 PM, **sharp**, August 10, 2022.

Our next stop will be at Rock Port, MO. for lunch and gas.

Our next planned stop will be at the Embassy Suites, KC Airport.

We will have a support vehicle traveling with us to handle excess
baggage if needed.

Please notify **Marty** nefron1@cox.net or **Jack** jesanford@cox.net if you
are planning on caravanning.

Bierman Poolside Dinner Party

When: Sunday, 5 p.m., August 21

Where: **Marty and Mary Lou's** home, 825 South 206th Ave. Elkhorn, NE.

Directions: From Omaha- Dodge St. to Elkhorn exit and turn south on Hi way 31 to Pacific St. Turn west on Pacific and take first right into Skyline Ranches. Take first right on Surrey Rd and then left on South 206th Ave. 825 is third house on the east side. From Lincoln or west- I-80 to Gretna exit and then Hi way 31 north about 10 miles to Pacific St. and then same as above.

RSVP to nefron1@cox.net by August 17 with names and number attending.

Bring a chair and **drive** your T-Bird if possible.





Fire Extinguisher Program



For those of you who missed the fire extinguisher program the link below will give you the written material passed out at the meeting.



Fire Extinguisher .docm



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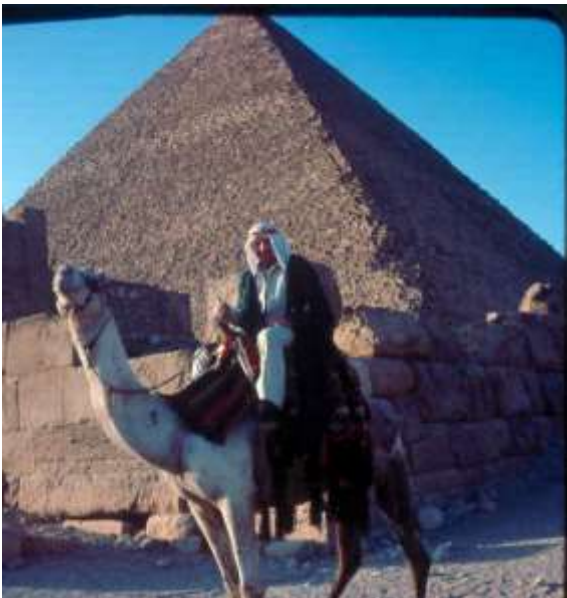
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Member Profile

Dick Heinke, a Nebraskaland T-Bird member, was an **U.S. Science Ambassador 1999-2001**. His selection began with the U.S. State department's desire to seek an 'Engineer' with manufacturing and design experience to be available for extensive travel in **Poland** providing advice to Polish Manufacturers of how American engineering and manufacturing entities made decisions affecting production in areas particularly relating to plastics as well as relating sciences. His name came up several times through the Society of Plastics Engineers where he had served as chair of several technical committees as well as chair of its foundation board. Further, they recognized his Russian language minor and background being helpful for improved communications, particularly on lectures and communications in the East approaching Russian speaking areas.

When asked to accept, he was immediately probed by virtue of the fact that his German great-great grandfather and family immigrated from Samoyschin, Poland in 1865 coming to America. That gave him a unique opportunity to investigate genealogy while serving... which he did, walking on the very soil where his great grandfather was born in 1851.



Dick also served as a consultant to the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations for engineering and economics from 1975-1978 while traveling with the secretary in Egypt, Israel, Ethiopia, Kenya, and other areas while being involved in the peace keeping design and decisions critical to establishing peace.

This is a photo of **Dick** on a camel that he named Clyde in front a pyramid near Cairo, Egypt. This is offered as testimony that **Heinke** truly rode on ancient critters before there was a T-Bird as a 'ride'.

It was a smelly ride.

He offers the preferable and current ride, his red T-bird that he totally re-manufactured.



Stir Up Days Ashland, NE, July 17, 2022



1955-1957 Class - Quentin Moeller: 1st Place <> Crystal Swensen: Runner up

1990-2003 Class - John Moore: Runner up

Unfinished Class - Tom Woodman: Runner up (sorry no picture)



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Quentin Moeller
1957 T-Bird



Crystal Swensen
1956 T-Bird



John Moore
2002 T-Bird





Important Reminder from CTCI Ford Johnson Memorial Trophy

We are finally back to enjoying our Thunderbirds and each other's company after two years of the COVID pandemic. Along with that comes the long-awaited CTCI 2022 International Convention!

The Ford Johnson Memorial Trophy is all about driving your 1955-1957 Thunderbird. And what better way than a road trip to San Antonio, TX for the 2022 International Convention, October 25-30. No matter where your starting point, there are any number of interesting sights to see along the way to San Antonio. Now is your chance to plan your big adventure and see the best America has to offer while you point your Thunderbird toward San Antonio!

Of course, an adventure of this magnitude requires planning. Make sure you have your creature comforts packed, but more importantly, bring parts and tools that are necessary to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable drive - after all, no one wants to be broken down on the side of the road. (Do I need to remind everyone that **our cars are over 60 years old?**)

The Ford Johnson Memorial Trophy is a fun competition only for those 1955-1957 Thunderbirds driven from your home to the convention site. The mileage for the award will be counted from your Chapter President's residence to the convention site at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort & Spa in San Antonio.

To participate, please have your Chapter President contact me with their home address and the Chapter members that will be joining the fun tour. Upon arrival at the Resort, participants can contact me with final mileage and participating members. Qualified participant Thunderbirds must be entered at the convention in either a concours, touring or display class.

Remember, this is about having fun enjoying your Thunderbirds and seeing the sights along the way. I look forward to meeting all the participants and hearing your adventure stories.

Safe Travels! **Kerry Kravik** CTCI Region 2 Director - Ford Johnson Committee Chair

kkravik@tds.net

608-358-7050



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For Sale

Letter from a former member that seeks our help.

Don't know if you remember me or not but I used to belong to the club back in 2004-2006 as I purchased a 1957 T-Bird from Don Janke in Oct of 2003 and I and Don Jewell of South Bend belonged and attended meetings when we could. He sold his T-Bird when he moved to AZ, but I still kept mine and have the Ne. license plate 57 Tbird. I recently advertised mine for sale in **Autabuy** but have not sold it and was wondering if anyone in the club would be interested in buying it as I have several other classics and am starting to liquidate from the longest ownership as I have been told by my children that "Dad you need to sell them." Last winter I got covid 19 for the third time and have developed COPD which limits my activities of going to car shows and just enjoying driving them. I will be 76 years old next week. So, if you know of anyone that would be interested in buying it, it is still listed on **Autabuy**, or I can send them a lot of pictures and descriptions. My license plate maybe could go with it. I am asking only \$33,500 OBO. It is a 57 T-Bird, Inca Gold, White top (porthole), White interior, PS, PB, PW, PS, 312 V8, auto, 139,000 miles, was California car until I bought it, Coker WW, I have most records of what was done to it.

I can be reached at 402-694-9355 – E-mail - rickertins@hamilton.net

Dwayne Rickert

842 4th St.

Hampton, Ne 68843

1957 Ford Thunderbird 2DR



1957 Ford Thunderbird 2DR

312-4v, 245hp, automatic, PS, PB, power windows, power seat, shields, backup lights, engine dress-up kit, fender skirts, California Black Plate till 2003, Town & Country radio, Coker ww's, Edelbrock carb, original Inca Gold, original carb & air cleaner available. \$33,500, (402)694-9355, Hampton, NE.

Listed online for \$33,500 OBO

Listed online for 308 days

For Sale

I have offered spare T-Bird parts before and gotten no lookers or takers. Having sold the farm and moved to a townhouse in Lincoln, I am setting an unpublished deadline to myself to clear my stock including parts of a three-speed transmission, a right rocker panel (still in the box), a rear half of an overdrive transmission, and a plethora of other parts which include a 12-volt starter motor, miscellaneous door handles, two used inside mirrors, and assorted emblem hardware. If any members need any T- Bird parts, this is the place to find it! My phone number or text is 402-432-2199, email: d37heinke@gmail.com

Address: 6716 Flint Ridge Road, Lincoln 68506.

All fair offers welcomed!

Regards, **Dick Heinke**





Quentin – DeWitt 1st Place



Kayla and Jack - Fremont 1st Place

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
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Historian	Bob McGowan - 402-334-2593
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