

Thunder Words



August 2023 ~ Volume 46, #8
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: Once again our monthly event had to be cancelled. July 29 was to have been our club's show at Coffee and Cars at Speedway Motors. Unfortunately, the weather radar that morning lit up like a Christmas tree with red, yellow, and green colors and the front was aimed at the Lincoln area. Club members that had signed up to attend were notified that we should cancel. Hopefully our August 12th tour of Walnut Iowa will not be affected by weather. If you have not signed up for the Walnut tour, please do so by e-mailing me or **Jack Sanford**. I hope to see everyone at the August 17 Thursday night meeting in Waverly.

Martin Bierman, President

Nebraska State Fair
August 25, -
September 4, 2023
Grand Island, NE

Next Club Event
Joint meeting with
Hawkeye Club
Walnut, IA
August 12, 2023
11:30 AM
Backfield Sports Bar

Next Meeting
August 17, 2023, 6 PM
Trackside Bar and Grill
13901 Guildford 7
Waverly, NE



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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club meeting July 20, 2023

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. at the Apple Barrel in Omaha, NE. There were 7 members present. In attendance were **Martin** and **Mary Lou Bierman**, **John La Duke**, **John Moore**, **Jack Sanford**, **Tom Woodman**, and yours truly, your humble secretary **Quentin Moeller**.

Junes' minutes were approved with a motion by **John** and a second by **Tom**. There was no treasurers report.

Note: The Apple Barrell has formally changed its name and it will be noticed as soon as the signs are available. The new name is...Kopper Kettle Kafe. It is unknown if the restaurants at other Sapp Bros. locations will change as well or if the menu will change.

Old Business: July 29th is "Coffee at Speedway" Plan to get there early...there are 11 members signed up to bring their cars. Arrangements are in effect so that we may all park together.

We have our August event in Walnut, IA on August 12th with the Iowa club. Watch the newsletter for details. (Note....I would like to go but do not want to drive myself. If someone is looking for a co-pilot, I would volunteer...Q)

Probable September event would be the 42nd Annual all-Makes Car Show held at the Southeast Community College Campus on the 12th. See the newsletter for details.

New Business: Nothing much to speak of for this month and there was nothing to brag about. The August meeting, August 18th, is at 6:00 PM in Waverly at the **Trackside Bar and Grill**. Plan on attending as the year's activities will be discussed and your input is very valuable.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by **John** with a second by **Jack**. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M. Respectfully submitted, **Quentin Moeller, Secretary**



T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman



"I would like to test my distributor"

A distributor can be tested on a Sun distributor test machine. Sun made a series of distributor test machines starting in the mid to late 1940's. The photo is of a Model 404 which was produced starting in 1969. I bought this Model 404 several months ago and had it completely refurbished by Paramount Distributor Company in Michigan. It has a drive motor to increase distributor rpms, a vacuum motor to test vacuum advance and three meters (rpm, dwell, and vacuum). The test distributor is mounted in the clamp and a chuck wrench tightens the shaft in the chuck. The lower handle increases the drive motor speed to increase rpms. Each time the distributor ignition points contact and open on one of the eight lobes on the distributor cam a strobe light flashes for a total of eight flashes every 45 degrees on the degree circle.

Using the dwell meter distributor bushing wear or shaft problems can be identified by a significant change in dwell with increasing rpm. Similarly, the dwell meter will change with vacuum advance when a breaker plate is warped or has a bad bushing. Each cam lobe can be examined for wear by noting any significant degree change as rpm increases. Vacuum advance canisters can be checked for leakage. Both vacuum and centrifugal advance curves can be checked and compared to factory readings for degrees of advance at various rpm levels. Centrifugal advance curves can be modified in 1957 or later distributors.

To date I have examined several distributors including the 1955 and 1956 Ford T-Bird vacuum only advance distributors; a new replacement 1957 Ford distributor; and a 1957 T-Bird distributor with Pertronix ignition. Advance curves and other data revealed several interesting findings in three of them. If any club member has a distributor that may have problems, I am able to test it.



1956 Distributor



CTCI UPDATES

2023 CTCI Thunderbird Convention

October 24th-29th ~ The Villages, Florida

Important update: Two revisions to the convention event schedule

Added Event

As a result of the successful membership vote recognizing Modern Classics, we will hold a special meeting on Thursday, October 26th from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Wildwood Community Center. During that meeting, registered attendees are invited to exchange ideas about how Modern Classic judging could be accomplished in the future. This is a great opportunity to help make Modern Classics an important part of CTCI. A no-host Food Truck will be set up outside the Community Center for your dining pleasure.

Event Change - Our Seminar Speaker #3 scheduled for Friday; October 27th has cancelled. In their place, we have scheduled an informal Meet/Greet Q&A session with the CTCI Board of Directors from 6:00-7:00 pm at the Wildwood Community Center. A no-host Food Truck will be set up outside the Community Center for your dining pleasure. If you already signed up to attend the Friday, October 27th Speaker #3 session you do not need to do a thing.

If you would like to attend either or both of the above events, please send a reply email ASAP, or call Sharon Bosley at the CTCI office (816-421-8273), to let us know so we can ensure plenty of seating.

We believe both of these events will significantly contribute to this convention and the success of future conventions.

Looking forward to seeing you in The Villages, October 24-29, 2023.



2023 Calendar of Events

August 12 – Joint Meeting with Hawkeye Club – Backfield Sports bar and Grill, 2117 Antique City Drive, Walnut, Ia. 11:30 am

August 17 - Business meeting – Track Side Grill – 6:00 PM – 13901 Guildford 7 – Waverly, NE

September 10 – 42nd Annual All Makes Car & Truck Show – Southeast CC, 8800 “O” St. – 8 – 10 AM registration.

September 21 - Business meeting – Kopper Kettle Kafe – 6:00 PM – 9905 Sapp Brothers Drive – Omaha, NE

October 19 - Business meeting – Track Side Grill – 6:00 PM – 13901 Guildford 7 – Waverly, NE

November 18 – Friendsgiving Club dinner – Misty’s at Havelock - Lincoln, NE (save the date)

December 21 - Kopper Kettle Kafe – 6:00 PM – 9905 Sapp Brothers Drive – Omaha, NE

August Club Event

What: Joint Meeting of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club and Hawkeye Club of Iowa

When: SATURDAY, August 12, 2023, 11:30 AM

Where: Backfield Sports bar and Grill, 2117 Antique City Drive, Walnut, Ia. (Exit # 46 on I-80)

Agenda: 11:30 AM-Lunch, Informal joint meeting with the Nebraskaland Club, adjourn to shop and tour Antique City Drive businesses.

Bob has tentative reservations for between 12-20 people, so please respond via e-mail (bobyoung@inbox.com) or phone (515-229-3870) by August 1, 2023 so he can give the restaurant a close headcount. They can accommodate more, so we are not limited.

We plan on caravanning to this event from Omaha, therefore in addition to responding to Bob Young, please e-mail Jack at jesanford@cox.net if you would like to join the caravan. Caravan participants will meet at Jack’s.



Area Car shows, and Swap meets 2023.

August 6 – Walnut, IA – 30th Annual Car show - Main Street - 8 AM – 3PM

August 12 – Columbus, NE - 32nd Annual All Ford Car Show – Frankfort Square on 13th St. - 8 AM – 3:30 PM

August 13 – Council Bluff, IA – Cancer Sucks Car Show – 3820 Harry Langdon Blvd. – 8:30 AM – 3 PM

August 13 – Prague, NE – 12th Annual Car Show - Downtown – 9 AM – 4 PM

August 13 – Valley, NE – Valley Days Car Show - Downtown – 9 AM – 3:00 PM

August 18-19 – Onawa, IA – Swap meet – Monona County Fairgrounds

August 19 – Omaha, NE – Hot cars under the stars – Dillion Bros. 3838 North HWS Cleveland Blvd. 5 – 9 PM

August 19 – Red Oak, IA – 46th Annual Car Show – Fountain Square Park Downtown – 8:15 AM – 3:30 PM

August 20 – Lincoln, NE – 6th Annual Make a Wish Car Show – west ramp of Lincoln Airport - 8 AM – 3 PM

August 26 – Arlington, NE – Kick'n It In the Stix Car Show – Washington County Fair Grounds – opens at 11 AM

August 27 – Council Bluff, IA – 6th Annual Wags & Wheels Car Show – 2700 College Road (WCC) – 9 AM – 4 PM

September 3 – Bennington, NE – 15th Annual Car Show – 156th and Warehouse Streets – 8 AM – 2:30 PM

September 4 – Omaha, NE – All American Car Show – CHI Lot D – 455 No. 10th Street – 10 AM – ??

September 8-10 – Greenfield, IA – Swap Meet – Adair County Fair Grounds – 900 East Elm Street.

September 9 – Papillion, NE – All Mopar and Swap Meet – So. 108th and Hwy 370- 9 AM - 3:30 PM

September 10 – Avoca, IA – 11th Annual Car Show – East Highway 83 - 8 AM – 3 PM

September 17 – Nebraska City, NE – Apple Jack Car Show - Downtown – 8 AM – 3:00 PM

September 24 – Fremont, NE – Swap Meet – Christensen Field, 1730 W. 16th Street – 6 AM – 3 PM

October 8 – Wahoo, NE – Swap Meet – Saunders County Fair Grounds – 7 AM

McGowan and Bierman T birds at Creighton prep car show

July 23, 2023



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PARTS FOR SALE

Dash 'Safety Pad' for '56. Black. Small scuff, but otherwise great. \$300.

John La Duke sphaeralcea516@gmail.com 701-330-7908




1956

A padded cover which was slipped over the existing vinyl-covered dashboard became available along with padded sun visors which directly interchanged with the newly introduced standard sun visors.

The padded dashboard cover stretches only from the instrument cluster to the door and the windshield to the instrument panel trim.

In 1956, Ford heavily emphasized their "Lifeguard Design" in response to growing public interest in the subject of automobile safety. Studies conducted by Ford in conjunction with leading universities, police departments, medical groups, and others had determined that the major causes of injury in automobile accidents were doors that opened on impact, hard objects such as dashboards, visors, steering wheels, and the steering columns against which drivers were frequently thrown. Accordingly, in 1956, Ford introduced the Lifeguard Design features shown here.




2002 Thunderbird for Sale

Power retractable convertible with removable hardtop with porthole.

Exterior – whisper white

Interior – midnight black

2 - passenger

3.9L DOHC V8 engine

5-speed automatic transmission

NUDO leather driver/passenger power seats

Power windows

Power tilt steering column

Variable assist power steering

Center console

Excellent condition 47,500 miles \$17,900

Contact Rick @ 402-630-0690 or gbria@cox.net



1956 Thunderbird special Y-8 Engine – Fordomatic 312 cu. In. With engine dress up kit.



Member Birthday

August

Rick Gough - 5

Jan Sibal – 8*

Jim Lantz - 12

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

*Someone wish Jan a Happy B-day

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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Vice President	Robert Routh	- 402-423-5249
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	- 402-572-1995
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