

Thunder Words



August 2024 ~ Volume 47, #8
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: I want to thank **Bob Routh** for sitting in for me at the last meeting while I was on a family trip. Our car show event on July 27 in Hickman was well attended, and we all survived the heat. **Jack Sanford** has a report on the show in this newsletter. I want to remind our members that the CTCI International Convention will be in Des Moines from August 20-25, and you can still register for it. You do not have to enter a T-Bird at the show, but you must be a CTCI member to attend. The convention has multiple tours, the Concours car show, and lots of T-Birds and fellowship.

Martin Bierman, President

**CTCI
Convention
Des Moines, IA
August 20 -24,
2024**

**August Important
Dates:**
4 – Nat. Friendship Day
7 – Purple Heart Day
16 – Nat. Kool-Aid Day
20 – Nat. Bacon Day
21 – Nat. Senior Day

**Next Meeting
August 15, 2024
6:00 PM
Copper Kettle Café
9905 Sapp Bros. Dr.
Omaha, NE 68138**



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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club July 2024

Vice President Robert Routh called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. at the Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly, NE. Members present were **Bob Routh, Jack Sanford, Jeff Brown, Joel Hutchins, John La Duke, Tom Woodman, Don Indra,** and your humble servant **Quentin Moeller**.

June's minutes were approved by a motion from **Tom** and a second by **John**.

Jeff Brown gave the treasurer's report. **Quentin** made a motion to approve, and **Joel** made a second.

We were glad to see **Don**, who was all the way from Norfolk. He isn't able to attend a lot of meetings due to the distance. **Don** recently lost his wife, **Karen**, and our sympathies go out to Don and his family.

Old Business: This is a reminder that Hickman Haydays is our July event on Saturday the 27th. The first to show up is requested to contact Kelli, who will ensure we will be staged together. She might be found around the VFW Hall. The convention in Des Moines was discussed for those going. It looks like there may be four or five participants.

New Business: It is hoped that **Dick Heinke** can reschedule the Indian Cave tour that had to be canceled in the fall for fall foliage viewing. Check the event schedule for updates on this and future events. Our September event is the 43rd All Makes Auto and Truck Show on September 8th. The location is at the SCC campus at 8800 "O" St. The show is from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and you can pre-register until the 7th for \$20.00. Show coordinator Jeff Most, assured us that we would be staged together. **Quentin** will be in contact with Jeff to see that this is honored. This is the old Havelock Show and should be a worthwhile activity. Watch the newsletter for more info.

Brag: **Tom** finally got his headliner worked on.

Don has solved some medical issues and removable top issues.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M. A motion to adjourn was made by **John**, with a second by **Jeff**.

Respectfully submitted, **Quentin Moeller, Secretary**.



Don Joel Jeff Jack

Tom John Quentin Robert



A follow-up on the Hickman event

Reported by Jack

Unfortunately, Kelli fell ill early while attending the morning tasks at the car show and was transported to the hospital. High blood pressure issues reportedly caused her condition. However, the club was allotted space so all seven cars could park as a group. Members attending were **Marty Bierman, John La Duke, Rob Kinsey, Tom Woodman, John Moore, Jack Sanford**, and guest **Phil Wieting**. Although the day was hot, it was not unbearable. The car show had 70 cars participating. Thanks to **Quentin** for setting this up. As of today, July 31, 2024, Kelli is still in the hospital.



Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman

“My gas gauge doesn’t read correctly”



Question- A '55 T-Bird owner notes that his fuel gauge reads only one-half full when his tank is filled. What’s wrong, and how can it be fixed?

Answer- Most commonly, the fuel tank sender unit is at fault. The sender can be accessed by removing the trunk rubber mat and removing the small round access plate

in the center of the trunk floor. Disconnect the yellow wire on top of the sender and ground it to a good metal ground with the ignition key on. If the wire is intact to the gauge and the gauge is functional, the gauge needle should go full scale. If this occurs, one knows the gauge and wire are intact, and the sender is likely the problem. If the gauge does not move, either it or the wire to it is bad. The gauge will need to be removed and tested separately. (See Gil’s Garage on the CTCI website under the Car Tech tab for instructions on testing gauges). If the gauge tests OK, the wire should be tested with an ohmmeter for continuity. If the gauge and wire test OK, the sender is the likely cause of the poor gauge function. The sender should be removed from the tank and inspected for any corrosion that may be limiting full motion of the float arm; the float should also be inspected for any leakage that may have filled it with gas. Simply shaking it may reveal liquid inside; if present, the float should be replaced. If the sender looks ok and the float is not fluid-filled, one can attach the yellow wire to the sender and attach a ground wire to a good ground; then turn the key on and move the float arm throughout its range and watch the gauge needle. If the needle does not move appropriately, the sender is bad and should be replaced. When replacing senders or gauges, be sure to keep the voltage the same for both units i.e. if the gauge is 6 volts, the sender must be 6 volt. Pictured is a reproduction 12-volt sender, matching gauge, and gasket offered by CASCO. Also, while the sender is out of the gas tank, one can inspect the interior of the tank for rust or debris. As always, there should be no smoking or sparks in the area while doing these evaluations.



CTCI UPDATES



2024 International Convention

Celebrating 70 Years of Thunderbird Fun

Hotel Reservations: Call 888-236-2427

Marty's registration forms for the Convention.

[Click here](#)

CTCI Board Meeting Highlights July 19, 2024

Treasurer's Report: John Kledis is working on finalizing the 2023 990 (Tax Report sent to the IRS). He reported that we are projecting a small "function" loss for 2024. He stressed that CTCI needed to increase membership to break even for 2024. John has calculated that CTCI needs about 3,800 members to reach breakeven at current membership rates.

Investment Fund Update: Garrett Shropshire reported that the investment account is greater than the original investment and greater than end-of-year 2023. The investment returns for the first 6 months are near 4.4% annual yield rate. The investment plan is following the previously approved "U S Treasury Bond ladder" and the yield rates will continue to increase as the approved plan is fully implemented.

2024 Convention Update: Marsha Hash presented the status of the 2024 International Convention to be held in Des Moines, IA from August 20-25, 2024. She noted that we are near 170 participants and about 45 cars. Marsha also reported that the registration site attached to the CTCI website (www.ctci.org) is still accepting registrations. It was also noted that the July - August issue of The Early Bird (which most members will receive over the next 2 weeks) includes all the registration information and a registration form for members who do not want to register online. It is recommended that members register for both the Convention and the Hotel as soon as possible.



Member Renewals: Garrett presented membership renewals through June 2024. Last year (12/31/2023) we ended up with 4,015 active members. Between January and June 2024, we gained 111 new members. We converted one new member from the Test Drive Program. To date, we have only received 61 notices of dropouts. At this point, we still have 597 members who are pending renewal. This is better than last year at this time.

Office Activity: Garrett reported on Invoice and Merchandise sales. To date, CTCI has had over \$7,000.00 in Merchandise Sales. In addition, there have been 32 requests for Factory Invoices.

Director Election: Vice President Jim McLaughlin reported that we now have candidates for all open Board positions. The 2024 election will cover Regions 2, 4, 6, and a Director-at-Large position. Per the CTCI Bylaws, Candidate bios must be received by the CTCI office prior to August 1, 2024, and will be published in the September-October Issue of The Early Bird. Any interested member who desires to become a CTCI Board member should submit their bio as outlined in the May-June issue of Early Bird. If you have any interest, please contact your Regional Director, Jim McLaughlin – Nominating Committee Chair, or President Chuck Thompson for details.

Joint Convention 2025: The Board approved the plan to produce a joint Convention in 2025. This joint Convention will include both CTCI and VTCI. The current planned date for the Convention is September 9 through 13, 2025. The convention will be held in North Grapevine, Texas (Dallas – Fort Worth area). As a note to all members wishing to attend the 2025 Convention: While the Convention will be a "Joint Production", CTCI and VTCI will each hold separate judging for their organization's cars. Bob Bly and Brian Carron will continue to work with VTCI to finalize the 2025 Convention plan.

CTCI Marketing Plan: Garrett Shropshire updated the board on the previously approved membership marketing plan. To date, Garrett has purchased a mailing list and sent out the first batch of postcards to potential CTCI members (Owners of Modern-Classical Retro's). In addition, the "landing page" is up and is linked to the main CTCI website.

Newsletter Contest: Marsha Hash, Newsletter Committee Chair announced that the Newsletter entries are now closed. She reported that the committee received 11 entries. They have been forwarded to the judges. Winners will be announced at the 2024 International Convention held in Des Moines.

Paul Hudgins Award: Chuck Thompson presented the nominees for the Paul Hudgins Award. This award will be presented at the 2024 International Convention in Des Moines.

Ford Johnson and Ron McCloud Awards: Chuck wanted to remind all members about the Ford Johnson Memorial Trophy (1955-57) and Ron McCloud Memorial Trophy (2002-05). They are fun competitions only for those Thunderbirds that are driven from your home to the convention. The mileage will be counted from your Chapter President's residence to the convention site at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel. More information is included in both the May – June and July – August issues of The Early Bird.

The next Board meeting is set for September 20 at 11:00 AM Central.

On Behalf of the Board,
Chuck Thompson, President



2024 Calendar of Events

- August 7 - 11** – VTCI 2024 International Convention – Grand Rapids Airport, MI
August 15 – Business meeting – 6:00 pm – Coffee Kettle Café – 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr. Omaha, NE
August 20 -25 – 2024 International Concours Convention – Des Moines, IA (see pages 6&7)
September 8 – “43rd Annual all makes car and truck show” – Southeast CC 90th & “Q” – 8 - 4 pm.
September 28 – Tour and Picnic – Indian Caves – Club event – Host – Dick Heinke – See page 7
October 12 - Empress cruise on the Iowa River – Joint Event with Hawkeye Club – See pages 7&8

Event Adjustments

After the monthly meeting, we were informed that **Jeff** and **Jim** had set October 12 as the date for the Empress cruise on the Iowa River. We then contacted **Dick Heinke**, and he agreed to reinstate his Indian Caves Tour to September 28th. The “43rd Annual All Makes Car and Truck Show” is still on the schedule but is no longer a club event. See the schedule above.

Indian Caves State Park Tour and Picnic

A picnic and tour have been scheduled for 1 PM on September 28th at The Indian Cave State Park, South and west of Brownville, Nebraska. NOTE: The entrance fee for Nebraska vehicles is \$7.00 per auto, while the entrance fee for out-of-state vehicles, such as Iowa, is \$14/ auto.

From Lincoln: East on Hwy 2 to Nebraska City, South on Hwy 75 to Auburn, East on Hwy 136 (9 miles), South on Hwy 67 (9 miles), East on 64E (5 miles).

From Omaha: South on Hwy 75, East on Hwy 136 (9 miles), South on Hwy 67 (9 miles), East on Hwy 64E (5 miles). You can also get there from Omaha by taking Interstate I-29 South and exit #110 to Brownville, NE.

We should each bring a picnic lunch and beverages for our lunches to use the local picnic tables near the entrance to the park. I will meet everyone at the entrance to follow me a short distance to the picnic area and tables just down the hill from the museum, where we can stop first for orientation and view exciting information.

After lunch, we can take a 5-mile drive around the park to the cave area adjacent to the Missouri River for an interesting observation of the cave. Afterward, we can parade on a drive through the park back to the entrance and to Brownville for a stop at “Whisky Run Creek Winery” to observe their interesting business and maybe have a glass of their beautiful wines and possibly buy a bottle to take home (if inclined). The winery was built over the original caves where whisky was stored beginning in the 1850s when interesting whisky was brewed to and through the Prohibition era of the 1920s. Perhaps we can go down into one of the caves used currently for wine and cheese tasting parties to experience the cool environment of temperatures in the 50’s (like our T-Birds....). I have been told that an investigation of the connected caves revealed many copper utensils for brewing that were true distilling devices when they were in vogue.

Tour and Empress cruise on the Iowa River

Invited - Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club and Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Saturday - October 12

10:30 am - Meet & Greet at the Soda Fountain, New Providence

Brunch + Rice Krispies*

Orientation to the historical aspects of the day’s cruise

Noon - Cruise through Hubbard via S57/D65/Hwy65 to Eldora via Hwys 65/175

NP Main Streets cruise

Honey Creek Church

Options in Hubbard Below Farm & Auto Restoration



Hubbard FD – restored fire truck

J&T trucking facility

1:30 pm – Car-themed movie at The Grand

3:15 pm – Cruise to Iowa Falls, Pine Lake, Sac, and Fox Overlook, Greenbelt Drive

4:00 pm – Scenic City Empress Riverboat cruise on the Iowa River

6:00 pm – Return cruise to Eldora

6:30 pm – Dinner at the Eldora Social Club

Sunday

9:00 am – Brunch at Jim & Jeff’s house in Eldora*

Accommodations – Eldora has 5 B&Bs with 14 bedrooms, Pine Lake State Park has 4 cabins, and Iowa Falls has 3 B&Bs with eight bedrooms.

*Jim & Jeff will provide brunches on Saturday and Sunday

More Pictures from Hickman

By John Moore



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TEN REASONS TO DRIVE YOUR THUNDERBIRD

Trail Birds of Southern Florida

1. It is good for the car - the 'Bird was made to be driven.
2. The thrill of participating in a driving event and seeing everyone else enjoying their 'Birds as well.
3. The thrill of driving and listening to the magnificent sound coming from your Thunderbird.
4. The smiles it puts on other people's faces when they see you drive by.
5. Sharing the experience with other Trail Bird members.
6. It gives you a good reason to wash, clean, and wax the car (not that you really need one).
7. You appreciate the advances made in the manufacturing of today's automobiles.
8. It puts you in another time and place with fellow owners.
9. If you develop a problem with the car, you know it can be fixed.
10. You keep your favorite mechanic employed.

For Sale

Tom Woodman has a used windshield, \$85.00

and

a used rear glass, \$35.00

Tom can be reached at 402-464-0596

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.

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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Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367

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