

Thunder Words



December 2022 ~ Volume 45, #12
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: As the year comes to a close, I want to thank all our club officers and chairpersons for their work and leadership throughout the year. I am especially grateful for **Jack Sanford's** work as newsletter editor and for his help on organizing events. He organized November's Friendsgiving Dinner complete with pictures of members' cars on the tables and on the nametags and also presented a slide show review of this year's events. Club Secretary **Quentin Moeller** has recorded each meeting's minutes throughout the year and Treasurer **Jeff Brown** has kept our books and updated our club roster. I also want to thank all our club members and their families that attended meetings and events throughout the year. I wish all our staff and members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I hope to see many of you at next year's meetings and events.

Martin Bierman

Jeff Brown reported that the
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club raised
\$450 for the Nebraska Children's
Home through the gift card program.
Nice job everyone!

Next Meeting
December 15, 2022, 6 PM
Track Side Restaurant
13901 Guildford
Waverly, NE



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
Sponsored by Lee [Sapp Ford](#)



Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club meeting November 19, 2022

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo, NE. There were seventeen members present. Because this was a dinner event the regular meeting procedure was shortened. **President Bierman** welcomed the members to the annual Friendsgiving Dinner. He then thanked **Jack Sanford** for organizing the dinner. He then opened the floor to any Club officer nominations. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to install the present slate of officers for the year 2023. **Rob Kinsey** so moved, and **Robert McGowan** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A slide show depicting 2022 was viewed next. That concluded the meeting portion of the evening.

Quentin Moeller, Secretary



T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman

“My heater won’t work”



Question – A 1955 T-Bird owner says his heater won’t work. What is wrong and how can this be fixed?

Answer- This is an interesting complaint since most T-Bird owners complain that their T-Birds are too hot, and they don’t want more heat! However, this owner likes to drive his T-Bird in the Spring and Fall and sometimes needs heat on the colder days.

In order to understand what is wrong, we need to understand the heater system. The heater is controlled by vacuum from the top of the fuel pump, the same vacuum source as the wiper system. A black rubber vacuum hose runs from the engine area through the firewall to a metal tee that sends a vacuum hose to the wiper and another vacuum hose to the heater box under the dashboard. Inside the heater box is a valve #18502 (sometimes referred to as a “spider or grasshopper valve” due to its looks) which is connected to a cable #18518 that runs to the dash temperature lever on the dash heater controls. When the dash lever is moved to give more heat the valve in the heater box is opened to another vacuum hose that runs to a heater valve on the front of the intake manifold #18495. When vacuum reaches this valve, it is



opened and sends hot radiator fluid to the heater core via the heater hoses. The heater motor fan moves air over the heater core into the heater box and

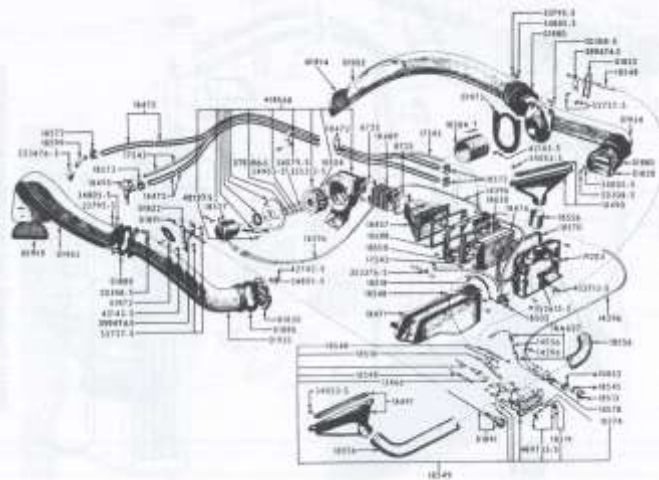
heats the passenger compartment.

In order to solve the no heat problem, one must check that all vacuum hoses are good and not cracked and leaking vacuum. Access to the heater box vacuum hoses and valve can be obtained by removing the screws that attach the plenum at the left side of the heater box and removing the plenum. Using a vacuum gauge, vacuum should be checked going into the heater box, coming out of the “spider valve” and at the heater valve on the intake manifold. Lack of vacuum prior to the “spider valve” would suggest a vacuum leak or plugged hose prior to the valve. Lack of vacuum in the hose exiting the “spider valve” would indicate a defective valve which is fairly common. If vacuum is present at the heater valve on the intake manifold but no heat is present, then the valve is not opening and needs replacement. Sometimes this valve will also leak coolant or whistle like a tea kettle when it is defective. If the valve is stuck open heat would be present at all times and cannot be shut off by the temperature lever at the dash.



Inspect the cable from the temperature lever to the “spider valve” for proper movement and function and replace as needed. Also inspect the heater hoses and heater core for any plugging or leaks.

All the T-Bird vendors have vacuum line replacement kits, reproduction heater box valves, and heater valves at the intake manifold; the latter two valves can also be found on e-bay as new old stock parts. Classic Auto Supply Co., Inc. (CASCO) carries a kit to replace the vacuum valves and lines with a manual valve and cable which is easy to install and eliminates the vacuum system entirely.



Calendar of Events for 2022

December 15 – Nebraskaland T-Bird Club meeting – Track Side Café Waverly, NE

Events during December

December 1

- National Christmas Lights Day
- National Peppermint Bark Day
 - Rosa Parks Day
 - Eat a Red Apple Day



December 2

- National Mutt Day
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
 - National Fritters Day
 - Special Education Day
 - National Build Joy Day

December 3

- World Pear Day
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 - Candle Day
 - Make a Gift Day
- National Green Bean Casserole Day

December 4

- Wildlife Conservation Day
 - International Day of Banks
 - National Cookie Day
 - Santa's List Day



December 5

- Day of the Ninja
- World Soil Day
- National Repeal Day
- International Volunteer Day



- National Blue Jeans Day

December 6

- National Gazpacho Day
- National Miners Day
 - St. Nicholas Day

December 7

- **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**
 - National Letter Writing Day
 - International Civil Aviation Day
 - National Cotton Candy Day
 - National Joy Day



December 8

- National Brownie Day
- National Blue-Collar Day

December 9

- National Llama Day
- Christmas Card Day
- National Pastry Day

December 10

- Dewey Decimal System Day
 - Nobel Prize Day
 - Jane Addams Day
 - Human Rights Day

December 11

- UNICEF Birthday
- National App Day

December 12



- Gingerbread House Day



- National Poinsettia Day
 - Green Monday
- International Universal Health Coverage Day
 - National Ambrosia Day

December 13

- National Day of the Horse
- National Guard Birthday
- National Salesperson Day
 - National Violin Day
 - National Cocoa Day
- National Cream Cheese Frosting Day



December 14

- Monkey Day
- National Free Shipping Day
- Roast Chestnuts Day

December 15

- National Cupcake Day
 - Bill of Rights Day
- National Wear Your Pearls Day

December 16

- National Ugly Sweater Day
- National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
 - National Underdog Day

December 17

- Wright Brothers Day
- Pan American Aviation Day
 - National Maple Syrup Day
- National Wreaths Across America Day



December 18

- Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day
 - National Twin Day
- International Migrants Day



December 19

- National Emo Day
- National Hard Candy Day

December 20

- International Human Solidarity Day
 - Go Caroling Day



December 21

- National Crossword Puzzle Day
- National Short Girl Appreciation Day
 - Look on the Bright Side Day
 - Winter Solstice
 - World Snowboard Day

December 22

- National Short Person Day
- National Cookie Exchange Day

December 23

- Festivus
- National Roots Day

December 24

- Christmas Eve
- National Eggnog Day
- Last Minute Shoppers Day

December 25

- Christmas



December 26

- Boxing Day
- National Candy Cane Day



- Day of Goodwill

December 27



- International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
 - National Fruitcake Day
- Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day

December 28

- National Card Playing Day
- National Short Film Day
- Pledge of Allegiance Day
- National Call-a-Friend Day
- National Download Day

December 29

- International Cello Day
- Still Need To Do Day

December 30

- National Bacon Day
- No Interruptions Day
- National Resolution Planning Day



December 31

- New Year's Eve
- National Champagne Day



It is that time of year again. The club dues are due. Please use the attach form to submit your dues. The dues are still a low \$15 per year. This is probably the best deal in town. Established in 1975, **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of one of the greatest cars ever created the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantage of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, show, annual Christmas/Friendsgiving party
- Members with restoration and repair experience
- Assistance with parts acquisition and location
- CTCI master judge to assist with authenticity issues
- Monthly newsletter with calendar of events and tech articles
- Club participation in car shows and parades

2023 Membership dues - \$15.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email(s) _____

Please send this form and check for membership dues payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of **Jeff Brown**, Treasure, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128



Thunderbird Key chains in Member's car color were given as party favors.





Farmer Brown's Party Room

**Quentin Moeller and new members
John & Michelle Moore**



CTCI CONVENTION DATA

There were thirty-three states and one foreign country registered for the convention. Of course, Texas came in with a count of 121. Next was California with 28 followed by Colorado with 16. Iowa had 7 and Nebraska had 2. The foreign country was Sweden. They had expected over 400, but for several reasons they had cancellations. Of the 159 pre-registered only 29 attended the convention. The host clubs made personal calls to over 200 members. This extra effort was very effective. The registrant list tallied 300. The weather was almost perfect, with a light rain on Saturday morning. This was judging day causing extra effort in prepping the cars. The convention was held in a large facility. This resort had everything from an eighteen-hole golf course to rental bikes with training wheels for kids. Our very own Brian Carron was everywhere. He was so busy they gave him a golf cart, which was needed for the largeness of the place. It was great seeing another one of our members, Bob Young, working on the judging field. This was our first and probably our last CTCI Convention, but we were able to remove CTCI conventions from our bucket list. Jack & Kayla Sanford



FOR SALE

Tom Woodman is getting out of the restoring business and is liquidating his inventory.

Tom can be reached at 402-464-0569.

1. 1957 Ford Thunderbird project car.
Car has a Nebraska Title.
Car has a lot of new parts.
Car has an automatic transmission
Buyer would be advised to know how to weld, as welding will be required.
Call **Tom** for details of car's condition.
2. 312 Pistons, crankshaft, rods
3. 292 pistons, crankshaft
4. One bare block
5. Cylinder heads
6. Thunderbird body rotator

FOR SALE

John La Duke has a 15-inch wire wheel setup for '56 T-Bird for sale. Set includes 4 - 15-inch chrome wire baskets, 4 hub caps with white painted accents and all the retainer clips necessary. \$600.

Price includes a fifth center cap (the 5th basket was bent beyond repair). An individual wire wheel is available from most vendors for a continental Kit Wheel if needed.

John can be contacted by email - sphaeralcea516@gmail.com or by phone at 701-330-7908 with questions or offers.

See photo:



Comments made in 1955

“I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are,
it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for \$20.00.”

“Have you seen the new cars coming out next year?
It won’t be long before \$2,000 will only buy a used one.”

“Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”

“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon.
Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”

“I read the other day where some scientist thinks it’s possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the
century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”

“I never thought I’d see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric.
They are even making electric typewriters now.”

“No one can afford to be sick anymore, at \$35 a day in the hospital it’s too rich for my blood.”

“If they think I’ll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it.”

“There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend,
it costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.”

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
Newsletter	Jack Sanford - 402-392-1350
Historian	Bob McGowan - 402-334-2593
Social Media	John La Duke - 701-330-7908
Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367

“ThunderWords” is the official publication of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club. Chapter 65 of Classic Thunderbird Club International. Annual dues are \$15, Payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of Jeff Brown, Treasurer, 7225 S. 103rd Street, LaVista, NE 68128.

