

Thunder Words

MERRY CHRISTMAS



December 2024 ~ Volume 47, #12
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



Pres Says: I want to thank **John** and **Michelle Moore** for hosting a delightful Friendsgiving dinner on November 17. I also hope all our members had a blessed Thanksgiving. This will be my last message as I turn over the President's position to **Rob Kinsey**. I appreciate all our members working on events and activities during my three years as President, and I know **Rob** will do an excellent job leading us forward in 2025. Don't forget to send **Jeff Brown** the gift cards for the Nebraska Children's Home or bring them to the December 19 meeting.

Martin Bierman, President

Next Event

Business Meeting
Coffee Kettle Café
6:00 PM
March 20, 2025
9905 Sapp Bros. Drive
Omaha, NE

December Dates:

7 – Pearl Harbor Day
17 – Wright Brothers Day
21 – Winter begins
25 – Christmas
31 – New Year's Eve

Next Meeting

December 19, 2024,
6:00 PM
Trackside Bar & Grill
13901 Guildford #7.
Waverly, NE 68462



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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club November 2024

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. at the Saltgrass Steak House in Omaha, NE. In attendance were **Martin and Mary Lou Bierman, Don Indra, Gina Casey, John and Michelle Moore, Jeff Brown, Diane Bessette, Rob and Vicki Kinsey, Bob and Cathy McGowan, Jeff Hoffmann, Jim Lantz, John and Barb La Duke, Jack and Todd Sanford** and yours truly, your humble secretary **Quentin Moeller**.

Marty welcomed everyone and gave a big thank you to **John and Michelle** for hosting.

The only business to conduct was to accept the 2025 officer's slate. The slate's only change was **Rob Kinsey** has agreed to run for President, **Marty** has agreed to run for Vice-president, and all others will remain the same. The slate was approved with a motion by **Jack Sanford** and a second by **John Moore**. The motion passed with no opposition.

Marty stated that was all the business items for today but did add that his last official act as president would be the December Business Meeting being held at the Track Side Bar and Grill on December 19. He stressed that it was an important meeting for setting the 2025 agenda and turning the gavel over to **Rob**. He then announced that after **Jack** presented a 15-minute slide show, that would conclude the business for today and we could continue the evening by enjoying our dinner.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS. A motion to adjourn was made by **Jack**, with a second by **John**. The dinner ended at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Moeller, Secretary

2025 Nebraskaland T-Bird Club Officers



Rob Kinsey
President



Marty Bierman
Vice President



Jeff Brown
Treasurer



Quentin Moeller
Secretary



Robert McGowan
Historian



John La Duke
Social Media



Jack Sanford
Newsletter



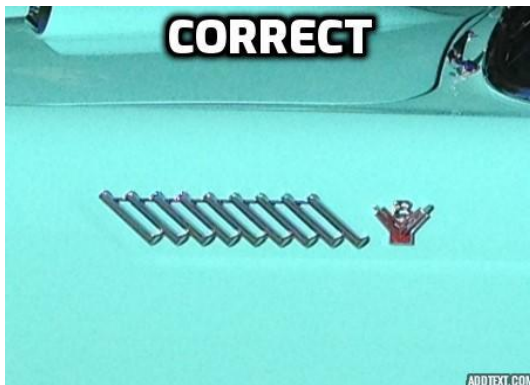
TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

Common Errors with '55 -'57 T-Birds



Two common errors continue to be seen in for-sale ads or pictures of '55 -'57 T-Birds on social media upside down front fender louvers and carburetor/distributor mismatch. The front fender louvers or "hashmark" (part # 16228-9) should be installed such that they resemble a line of "j's" hanging on a clothesline. It is easy to install them upside down since the right louver will fit in the holes on the left fender and vice versa. The presence of such an error indicates that the restorer or owner is unfamiliar with the '55-'57 T-Bird.



The carburetor/distributor mismatch occurs when a 1957 or late model carburetor and manifold is used to replace the '55 or '56 teapot (Holley 4000), and the distributor is not replaced. The later carburetors have a vacuum signal that is very high compared to the '55-'56 carburetors, and as a result, the '55 or '56 distributor vacuum advance is inappropriate. high, which results in poor performance. A '57 style distributor must be used with these conversions.



This mismatch continues to be seen in cars advertised for sale or pictured on social media. The picture at the left shows a late-model carburetor and a '56 distributor.

MEMBER NEWS



Our 2024 Friendsgiving Dinner was different this year. John Moore, this year's host, brought to the board's attention that a Sunday afternoon dinner would be beneficial financially and convenient for those who suffer from night driving. The board approved the suggestion. John solicited each participant's dinner order beforehand, providing the food types needed for the dinner in advance. The Club provided the appetizers again this year. A cash bar was available, and our waitress took our drink orders. John and his wife Michelle made name place cards to enable the waitress to identify the order placement. Along with the name cards, which proudly showed our Club Logo with our names, they provided a small bag filled with an assortment of Baker Candies. President Martin Bierman held a short business meeting primarily to introduce and vote on the slate of 2025 officers. The only change was Marty stepping down as President and serving as Vice President. Robert (Rob) Kinsey was elected the 2025 President. A fifteen-minute slideshow depicting Club Activities for 2022—2024 was presented. Robert McGowan capped off the afternoon with a short talk concerning the history of the Club.

And as a witness to the affair, I would say it was a success. John and Michelle did an excellent job.

Jack Sanford, Editor

CTCI Board Meeting Highlights

Nov. 15, 2024

Treasurer's Report: John Kledis presented the Treasurer's report. This report was for the first nine months of 2024. On the Balance Sheet, CTCI showed "Club Equity" of \$1,270,136, which is near what we had for 2023. For "Revenue and Expenses", the Club functional loss was near \$40,000, and included about \$10,000 in one-time items including some marketing list purchases. John further explained that currently we are projecting a "function" loss for 2024. He stressed that CTCI needed to increase membership in order to breakeven for 2024. John has calculated that CTCI needs about 3,800 members to reach breakeven at current membership rates. He also explained that we must take action to increase membership or decrease our costs.

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 10 months are over 4.0% annual yield rate. The investment plan is following the previously approved "U S Treasury Bond ladder". The yield rates will level off or slightly decrease and will be subject to the Fed Treasury Rate.

Member Renewals: Garrett presented membership renewals through August 2024. Last year (12/31/2023) we ended up with 4,015 active members. Between January and August 2024, we gained 183 new members and are currently at 3,566. We converted 21 new members from the Test Drive Program. We are deep in the 2024 Membership drive. To date we have only received 62 notices of dropouts. At this point we still have 588 members who are pending renewal this year. However, we are still above the 507 members who did not renew from 2022.

Cost Saving for Member Renewals: The board agreed to change the current cut-off for sending The Early Bird magazine to non-renewing members. Currently non-renewing members receive both the Jan-Feb issue as well as the Mar-Apr issue of the Early Bird. It was agreed that non-renewing members will only receive the Jan-Feb issue and it will be noted as the members "Last Issue".



Office Activity: Garrett reported on Invoice and Merchandise sales. To date CTCI has had over \$12,000.00 in Merchandise Sales. In addition, there 53 requests have been made for factory invoices.

Cost Saving Ideas: Based upon the last financial report presented, it shows that we are currently projecting a “function” loss for 2024. President Chuck Thompson is planning on a separate board meeting specifically devoted to the financial situation. He stressed that CTCI needed to change the current trajectory of CTCI. In basic terms the Club either needs to quickly increase membership or must find ways to reduce costs. Since it appears that we will not be able to meet our membership goals, then the board will need to discuss ideas to reduce costs on storing and distributing merchandise, changing the number of issues of The Early Bird, reducing costs to produce The Early Bird, and changing the cost for administration of CTCI.

2025 Joint Thunderbird Convention Update: Brian Carron presented the Convention Update. The current planned date for the Convention is September 9 through 13, 2025. Brian updated the board on some of the difficulties in getting the hotel contracts finalized. The convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel located in North Grapevine, Texas (Dallas – Fort Worth area). At this point the room rates have been finalized along with all of the meeting rooms needed for the Convention. In addition, some tours and associated transportation have been arranged.

CTCI Marketing Plan: Garrett Shropshire updated the board on the previously approved membership marketing plan. In addition to sending out the first wave of printed invitations, the first round of follow-up E-mails has been sent out in an effort to gain new members.

Newsletter Contest: Marsha Hash, Newsletter Committee Chair, presented some changes to improve the Newsletter Contest. The Board agreed to the changes, which will include an additional award level in addition to some procedures to assist in judging including the size of newsletter and content. Newsletter Editors watch for the Early Bird for more details for the start of the next Newsletter Contest. In addition, Marsha again wanted to remind all clubs that electronic newsletters can be entered in the Newsletter Contest.

2025 Regional and 2026 International Convention: Chuck Thompson raised the question if there are any regions - chapters who might be interested in sponsoring a 2025 Regional Convention. In addition, it is time for chapters to begin planning for



the sponsorship of the 2026 International Convention. Any and all chapters who wish to sponsor a either at 2025 Regional OR 2026 International Convention should reach out to Chuck. Please note, to allow proper planning time, interested Chapters should try to let Chuck know as soon as possible.

The next Board meeting is set for January 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM Central and will include both the outgoing as well as the newly Elected Board.

On Behalf of the Board,
Chuck Thompson, President

SAVE THE DATE

JOINT THUNDERBIRD CLUB EVENT

“Stronger Together ‘55-‘05 in ‘25, Driving The Past Into The Future”



Don't Miss the
Mega-Event of
the year

HOTEL: EMBASSY SUITES – N.GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

Tours, speakers,
separate VTCI and
CTCI Concours
Judging

SEPTEMBER 09-13, 2025

HOSTED BY



**CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL (CTCI) and
VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL (VTCI)**



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2024 – 2025 Calendar of Events

- December 19 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside Bar & Grill 1309 Guildford #7 – Waverly, NE**
March 2 – 51st Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center -Lincoln
(same location, new name – 4100 North 84th Street)
March 20 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Coffee Kettle Café, 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr. Omaha, NE



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Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still a low of \$15 per year, probably the best deal in town. Established in 1975, the **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to preserving and enjoying one of the greatest cars ever created: the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantages of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, shows, and the 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 a calendar of events and tech articles
- Club participation in car shows and parades



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2025 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

For Sale

Roger has three more items remaining to clear his garage.

A Small metal desk

A fax machine

A copier/printer

Make offers

Contact Roger Maritz – 402-319-1946 (Omaha)

I have sold my '57 Tbird. I have several Early Bird magazines, some purchased at an auction a few years ago at an annual T-Bird dinner.

I also have pictures and models. I want to dispose of those for anyone who may be interested.

Gaylan Abood – 402-677-0514 – gabood@cox.net



FRIENDSGIVING DINNER







Hosts - John and Michelle Moore



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TIP OF THE MONTH

Wheel alignment is critical to ensure the tires deliver optimal wear and performance. Signs that the alignment may need to be adjusted include pulling, improper vehicle handling, or unusual tire wear.

December fun fact:

The Anglo-Saxons originally had their own names for the month of December. One of these names was “Winter Monath,” which quite obviously translates into “Winter Month” and requires no real explanation.

**Member Birthday
December**

- Mary Lou Bierman - 12**
- Gaylord Lacy – 19**
- Sandy Freeburg – 24**
- Jack Sanford - 27**
- Alice Brown - 30**

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
- 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.

Never forget the real meaning of Christmas

